



Cairo police ring buses that were damaged Tuesday by a terrorist bomb outside the Egyptian Museum, which is frequented by tourists. No injuries were reported.

Egypt Terrorists Set Off Bomb In 2d Attack at Big Tourist Site

CAIRO — A bomb on Tuesday damaged four buses parked outside the Egyptian Museum, one of the best-known tourist attractions in Cairo's biggest public square, where last month another bomb killed three people and wounded 20 others in a coffee shop.

The bombing shattered windows in several empty tourist buses, causing panic in the Tahrir public square but no casualties. Executives in the tourist industry immediately asserted that the incident was certain to wipe out what is left of Egypt's sagging tour-

Muslim extremists are targeting Egypt's large Coptic minority. Page 2.

ist trade, which has suffered severe blows from attacks and threats by several Egyptian Muslim fundamentalist terrorist groups in insurrection against the government.

Tourism in Egypt is estimated by various hotel managers to have dropped by 60 percent to 80 percent since October, when a British tourist was killed in an attack by Muslim fundamentalists. The terrorist suspects have been arrested and are on trial. Revenue from tourism last year brought the country \$3 billion to \$4 billion.

Cairo's deputy governor, Mohammed Youssef, who was at the scene of the bombing shortly after it took place at 1:05 P.M., said that the attack was still being investigated, but he asserted it was almost certainly the work of Muslim fundamentalist terrorists.

Police and anti-riot forces immediately surrounded the museum area in the large square, which is bordered by the Nile Hilton, the Foreign Ministry, the Arab League and the American University in Cairo. Authori-

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Mafia Linked To Politics In Deepening Italian Probe

3d Party Leader Quits, Investigators Spell Out Criminal Corruption

By Alan Cowell

ROME — Italy's bribery scandal clawed deeper into the government's shredded ranks Tuesday when the leader of a third political party resigned and investigators finally began detailing the incendiary ties between corrupt politicians at the heart of government and the organized crime gangs of the south.

In Parliament, Prime Minister Giuliano Amato faced something between circus-clown slapstick and riotous revolt when legislators from rightist groups outside his government waved bangman's nooses, tossed colored sponges, donned rubber gloves, waved banners and almost came to blows.

"Resign, resign," legislators from the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement and the insurgent Northern League chanted at the Italian leader, just back from a visit to London where he delivered a lecture Monday on his country titled "The Rules of Chaos" and declared that Italy needed "an almost totally new political class."

The lower house of the Parliament endorsed his government after the rowdy debate. A motion of confidence was adopted, 295 to 248, with seven abstentions.

The changes facing the old order are mounting as magistrates in the south of the country, the electoral fief of the Christian Democrats, seem increasingly emboldened by the example of their northern colleagues and ready to probe the opaque and often bloodstained relationship between corrupt politicians, their business associates and organized crime.

On Monday, magistrates in Naples, the heartland of the Camorra organized crime families, accused three deputies of taking millions of dollars in bribes in return for contracts on a project to privatize the city's garbage collection system.

More significant, in Reggio Calabria, further south, magistrates accused 13 people of Mafia association — a serious crime in Italy — in establishing a "business committee" of politicians, businessmen and mobsters in the city, which is dominated by a Mafia-like crime syndicate called the "Ndrangheta. Four of the accused were politicians already in jail for conspiring with mobsters in the 1989 assassination of a political rival.

The indictment names both a former Christian Democrat education minister, Riccardo Misasi, and the fugitive head of the "Ndrangheta, Domenico Libri, captured in France in September and held in a Marseille prison during extradition hearings. It was the first time in the "clean hands" scandal that a leading mobster had been personally identified along with businessmen and politicians. Mr. Misasi has denied being implicated.

For 13 months, investigators in many cities, particularly Milan, have peeled away Italy's political facade to reveal a deep-rooted system of kickbacks and illicit donations paid by businessmen to politicians of all major parties in return for public works contracts. The scandal is the most extensive in postwar Europe. Hundreds have been arrested or placed under investigation, and public administration has all but come to a halt.

The probe, known as "mani pulite" ("clean hands"), has battered at the credibility of Italy's leaders and their institutions. Particularly hard hit has been Mr. Amato's Socialist Party, whose leader, Bettino Craxi, was forced to resign last month under the pressure of seven separate investigations into purported misdoings that he has denied.

Additionally, Giorgio La Malfa, head of the Republican Party, quit after acknowledging that he accepted an unlawful campaign contribution.

On Tuesday, it was the turn of Renato Altissimo, whose Liberal Party is a junior member of Mr. Amato's teetering, four-party coalition — a government that stays in power only because many legislators fear its collapse would lead to elections in which they would lose their parliamentary seats and thus their immunity from prosecution.

Magistrates told Mr. Altissimo that he was under investigation for accepting bribes worth \$35,000 from ENEL, the state electricity utility.

See ITALY, Page 5

At Least 25 Die in Calcutta as a Bomb Destroys 2 Buildings

NEW DELHI — A bomb wrecked two buildings in Calcutta before dawn Wednesday, killing at least 25 people and injuring 100, police and news agencies reported.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion, which came five days after bombs in Bombay killed more than 200 people. Calcutta, India's second biggest city, is 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) east of Bombay. The bomb in Calcutta ripped through a five-

storey building in the central Bowbazar district, igniting a fire that trapped several people inside, according to Press Trust of India.

On Friday, 13 bombs detonated in Bombay, wrecking the stock exchange, offices and apartment buildings. No one has claimed responsibility for those blasts.

"Two suspects to the explosions in Bombay were arrested Monday night, and two others escaped in a shoot-out at the airport as investigators explored indications that organized

crime and international terrorists had roles in the bombings.

Two U.S. investigators are traveling to New Delhi to join the inquiry and look for similarities with the World Trade Center bombing, officials said.

The police also said powerful bombs that apparently failed to detonate on Friday were found Monday on two motorcycles outside shops in the gold and diamond market. "These would have blown up the entire gold

and diamond markets," said the head of the bomb squad, Nandkumar Chowgule.

Police Commissioner Imrajit Singh Samra said that organized crime had been linked to the blasts in Bombay, but that the use of sophisticated explosives also indicated foreign involvement.

On Monday afternoon, the police tracked two men suspected of reserving the hotel rooms where bombs exploded on Friday. Both men are believed by officials to be linked to a Dubai-

based organized-crime figure from Bombay, and both are wanted on charges of kidnapping and murder.

The police said one was a contract killer. The police surprised the men near the airport and pursued them in a gunfight that wounded one police officer and is believed to have wounded one suspect. Both suspects fled.

Two other suspects were arrested, but details were not available. (AP, NYT)

China's Military Outlays Fan the Region's Fears

By Nicholas D. Kristof

BEIJING — The government announced a 15 percent increase Tuesday in the military budget for this year, adding to a string of increases in military spending that are alarming neighboring countries.

While China no longer faces any major threat on its borders, its military budget this year is almost double the figure for 1988. Other Asian countries fear that China is trying to intimidate its neighbors and resolve long-standing boundary disputes in its favor.

More fundamentally, some diplomats suggest that China is trying to fill a vacuum in the Pacific following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Philippines.

Chinese officials made no attempt Tuesday to justify the boost in military spending. But on Monday, Prime Minister Li Peng told the National People's Congress that China needed to turn its 3-million member army into "the best armed forces that China's conditions permit."

Without citing any threats, Mr. Li said that the army must "constantly increase its combat effectiveness and defense capabilities under modern warfare."

The figures for military spending were included in a budget speech presented by Finance

Minister Lin Zhongli in the Congress, now meeting for its annual session.

Mr. Li said that the budget for military spending was 42.5 billion yuan (\$7.4 billion) this year.

That sum compares to a military budget of 37 billion yuan in 1992, and 21.5 billion yuan in 1988.

Military spending increased even as Mr. Li released figures indicating that, by Western accounting methods, the budget deficit last year grew to \$19.8 billion, or 27 percent of revenue. Other budget items, such as education, culture and health care, increased much less than military spending.

The publicly disclosed military budget includes only about half of all military spending, experts say. It does not include funds spent on acquiring new equipment, on weapons research or on relocating and supporting retired officers.

These sums are dissipated in other areas of the budget. In addition, the military has other substantial sources of income, including money from arms exports and sales of the refrigerators, radios, clocks and other civilian items made by military-owned factories.

Even so, total military spending probably accounts for only a bit more than 3 percent of gross national product, a smaller share than in

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GIs Are in Bosnia, UN General Says

PARIS (Reuters) — The UN commander in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon, said Tuesday that two U.S. Army signal experts were in Srebrenica to guide relief airdrops. Radin France Internationale reported. The U.S. Air Force has been parachuting food and medicine to civilians in isolated Bosnian communities since March 1, but this was believed to be the first disclosure that U.S. Army personnel were on the ground. Earlier article, Page 2

Amsterdam Out of UEFA Cup

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Although Ajax Amsterdam, the defending UEFA Cup champion, defeated Auxerre, 1-0, Tuesday, it was the French soccer club that advanced to the tournament's semifinal round on the aggregate score. Ajax's victory was not strong enough to recover lost ground after its 4-2 defeat in the first-leg match two weeks ago.

Stranded U.S. Campers Found

NEW YORK (AP) — The last 24 Michigan campers stranded since the weekend storm on the East Coast were found Tuesday in the North Carolina mountains. Earlier article, Page 4



Prince Charles visiting with British troops in Croatia. On the Serbia-Bosnia border, relief convoys awaited clearance to go to besieged towns in eastern Bosnia. Page 2.

Table with market data: Dow Jones (Up 0.54, 3442.95), Trib Index (Up 0.32%, 94.28), The Dollar (New York, 1.5848, 1.5823), DM (1.4485, 1.4348), Yen (117.05, 118.61), FF (5.8555, 5.8336)

General News

Clinton's medical plan is intended to cover mental health costs, too. Page 3.

Georgia claimed it is at war with Russia. Page 2.

Seoul, fearing the North, may seek U.S. aid. Page 6.

The Socialist's savior in France loses faith. Page 9.

Paris Fashion

Winds of change are blowing over fashion. Page 7.

Business/Finance

Olivetti stock tumbled after the company asked shareholders for a huge capital infusion. Page 11.

Paris supported the franc as speculative pressures grew. Page 13.

The Incredible Case of the Vanishing Auto Executive

By Doron P. Levin

DETROIT — From the moment José Ignacio López de Arriortua arrived at General Motors Corp.'s headquarters from Europe nine months ago, the straitlaced U.S. automobile industry had never seen anyone so driven and so personally eccentric challenging the Motor City's protocol.

The bizarre tug of war over Mr. López between GM and Volkswagen AG, which ended Tuesday with VW's confirmation that it was installing him as its high-powered purchasing and production chief, revealed just how eccentric. (Page 11)

In a period of about 48 hours, Mr. López, who had been

wood for months by VW, formally changed his decision twice about whether to leave GM, finally announcing his resignation Monday afternoon by dispatching a friend to GM headquarters with a handwritten note to John F. Smith Jr., GM's chief executive.

The note arrived just two hours before Mr. Smith had scheduled a news conference to announce that he would name Mr. López president of GM's vast North American operations, one of the most powerful jobs in American business.

The VW job, which puts Mr. López in charge of worldwide production, is thought to come with a financial package worth \$20 million over five years, a sum unheard of except among the auto industry's top jobs.

Mr. López's flip-flop, which began with his formal resignation from GM on Thursday, is a public embarrassment for Mr. Smith, his friend and mentor.

In one of his first acts as GM's president, Mr. Smith brought Mr. López, a Spanish industrial engineer, to Detroit, and endowed him with broad powers to shake up the No. 1 automaker's parts-making and purchasing operations. The hope was that he could repeat his cost-cutting successes that had helped Mr. Smith turn around GM's sputtering European operations in the 1980s.

Mr. López became a symbol of revolution by calling for a

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A Chilling War Scenario

Detailed Plans Uncovered by German Military Show East Bloc's High Readiness for Offensive

By Marc Fisher

Washington Post Service

BONN — East German and Soviet planning for a military offensive against West Germany was so detailed and advanced that the Communists had already made street signs for Western cities, printed cash for their occupation government and built equipment to run Eastern trains on Western tracks, according to documents found by the German military.

Documents covering the period from the 1960s to the mid-1980s — as well as assault equipment found in the East German regime's huge underground storage facilities — have persuaded German military planners and historians that the Soviet bloc not only seriously considered an assault but also had achieved a far higher level of readiness than Western intelligence had assumed.

Vice Admiral Ulrich Weisser, chief of the planning staff for the German armed forces, said the East German Army had "made every necessary preparation to conquer and occupy the West, and especially West Germany."

He added, "Our officers were deeply impressed."

The preparations, which were regularly updated over the years, ranged from the trivial to the terrifying. East Germany's military and the Stasi secret police had printed up new street maps and signs for Western cities. Königsallee, Düsseldorf's tony avenue of furs, jewels and designer fashions, was to be dubbed Karl Marx Allee.

When Western officers took over Eastern bases after the Germans were reunited in 1990, they found more ammunition for the 160,000-man East German force than the West German military had for its 500,000 troops.

In the town of Lehnin, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from West Berlin, the East German military had erected a mock Western city in which East German and Soviet troops practiced for the invasion and street battles. Now a collection of abandoned, shell-pocked buildings, the "city" of Scholzenstadt included a school, bank, court-

See READY, Page 5

The New Hunt in Congress: Going After the Prolix

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — Nothing is sacred on Capitol Hill anymore. First perks were under attack, then pork became suspect. And now propaganda is getting a bad name.

Representative Porter J. Goss, a Florida Republican, has introduced a bill proposing that his colleagues be forced to pay cash for making extraneous comments in the Congressional Record, the official transcript of what is said in the House and Senate each day.

Denouncing what he calls runaway "propa-

ganda" in the "Extensions of Remarks" section in the back of the Record, where lawmakers are allowed to tack on windy pleas to constituents and interest groups that were never delivered on the House floor, Mr. Goss suggests that members be charged \$600 each time they add anything that does not pertain to legislative business.

In the 103d Congress, righteousness is as fashionable as a dull red tie. An earnest freshman class, plus some zealous brethren from earlier classes, are submitting one bill after another intended to root out any remaining

truffles of congressional privilege and show that lawmakers know how to sacrifice, too.

Clinging to the notion that members of Congress deserve a bit of cushiness, some of the old-timers are grumbling that this year is shaping up to be the political version of "The Revenge of the Nerds." The halls that were once filled with the bohemism of logrolling and backscratching are now bristling with goody-goody chic.

"If someone told them to cut their throats because it would be good for the economy, they're prepared to do it," said Representative

Charles B. Rangel, the veteran New York Democrat, complaining about the group of lawmakers christened "reformer wonks" by Norman Ornstein, an analyst who focuses on Congress.

"They have no idea," Mr. Rangel continued. "They're not checking with their newsletters. They're feeding on each other's enthusiasms. They have no plan, no strategy, no willingness to sit down and see what is really meaningful."

Mr. Rangel became disillusioned with the

See CHIC, Page 5



# Under Muslim Assault, Egypt's Coptic Christians Wonder Where to Turn

By Youssef M. Ibrahim  
New York Times Service

CAIRO — In a striking example of the power of Muslim fundamentalists, nearly 10 million Coptic Christians in Egypt, the largest religious minority in the Middle East and one of its most ancient, are under siege.

Copts from all walks of life are being attacked, robbed and killed by roving bands of fundamentalists. Churches are regularly vandalized and sometimes burned, prompting the government to place virtually all of them under police guard.

As Islamic fundamentalism has become a rallying cry for opposition groups throughout the Arab world, Christian Arabs have come under pressure that in the last few years has vastly diminished their political, social and economic status in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Syria and among Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel. As a result, hundreds of thousands have emigrated to the United States, Canada, Western Europe and Australia.

The sharpening hostility toward Arab Christians is a by-product of a wider Muslim fundamentalist challenge that began in the late 1970s. Militants have made secularist Arab governments their targets, including those of Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Jordan, as well as pro-Western fundamentalist nations like Saudi Arabia and others in the Gulf.

The movement, which encompasses many groups, has gradually widened its targets to

include Western interests regarded as a natural extension of secular modernization. Hostages were taken in Beirut by Muslim fundamentalists with close ties to Iran, where an Islamic government came to power in 1979. Bombs planted by fundamentalist immigrants recruited from abroad shook France. Western airliners were hijacked.

Now the United States may have become a target, too, as investigators pursue leads suggesting that Muslim fundamentalists were connected to the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York last month.

In Egypt, with the Arab world's largest population, it is the little-known Christian minority that has become the main victim of Muslim violence.

Copts are reckoned to be a link to Egypt's pharaonic past, direct descendants of the original inhabitants of the country. The word "Copt" has its origins in a Greek word meaning Egyptian. Christianity came to Egypt in the year 41, and the Coptic church was among the so-called Oriental churches that split with Rome in 451 in a theological dispute. After the Islamic Arab invasion of the seventh century, many Copts eventually converted to Islam.

The assaults against Copts, which have claimed 150 to 200 lives, are part of a strategy to bring down the government of President Hosni Mubarak in favor of an Islamic republic like that in Iran.

Militants hope to destabilize the country

with the violence, which has also claimed victims among Muslim government officials and security forces. In October, foreign tourists were added to the list of targets in an effort to devastate the tourism industry, which is vital to the Egyptian economy.

Most Egyptians, including Copts, believe the Egyptian government can contain fundamentalist violence here. But a majority of Christians and the Coptic Church leadership argue that the government fosters a climate of religious intolerance that encourages violence against them. Benign neglect and discrimination against Copts have been practiced by successive Egyptian governments, including that of Mr. Mubarak, many Copts assert.

In the last two decades, Copts have been systematically eliminated from positions as cabinet ministers, army officers, police officers, governors, bankers, parliamentary representatives and university professors.

In what many Copts see as one of most blatant examples of sanctioned discrimination, archaic laws from the Ottoman Empire have been used to ban the construction of new churches and the repair of ancient ones for nearly 30 years, severely constraining the practice of Christianity in Egypt and placing a rich heritage of centuries-old monasteries, churches and icons at risk.

A climate of fear and rejection has become pervasive enough that many Coptic women, abandoning a practice followed since Chris-

tianity came to Egypt nearly 2,000 years ago, now refrain from displaying crosses. In Cairo, Christian schools have raised the walls surrounding them by several feet for added protection. At public schools, Christian children complain they learn nothing of their religion and are often insulted, ostracized or humiliated by militant Muslim teachers.

"We are living through moments of terror," said Sabri Khalil Ghabrial, 37, a surgeon in El Minya, in southern Egypt. "There are days when you go into the streets not knowing what may happen to you."

The attacks on Christians began in southern Egypt, a fiercely conservative, emotionally combustible region whose people have strong ties to the land going back centuries. In the 1980s and 90s the attacks moved to large urban centers up the valley of the Nile, including the capital, Cairo.

Amid almost weekly reports of violence against Christians, a massacre in Dairut stood out as a particularly shocking example. On May 4, 1991, a group of Muslims moved down 13 Christian peasants with machine-gun fire as they tilled their lands outside the village. Three other Copts were killed in town, one a doctor who was tending to a patient in his clinic.

In October, in the village of Tema, south of El Minya, four Christians were killed with axes in their homes by Muslims. The fundamentalists returned in greater numbers the next day and burned 64 houses and dozens of stores

owned by Christians as well as a church before the police and firemen showed up.

Attacks claiming scores of victims have also taken place in Cairo, Alexandria, and other cities.

"In the face of these assaults the government's reaction was always coming in too late after the people are killed, after the houses have been burned and the churches sacked," said Antonou Sidhom, editor and publisher of *Wattani*, a weekly Coptic newspaper. "They never offered to pay compensation or provided credible comfort to their Christian citizens."

In many ways, some Copts say, the ultimate shock came in October, after a British tourist was killed in an attack. The government, mindful that tourism was its single largest source of foreign revenue last year, bringing in \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion, began a huge security sweep that is still under way, resulting in the arrests of thousands of suspected militants.

Many Christians took this response as a chilling message.

"It is as if the government is telling everyone, 'It's O.K. if you march on little Copts, but don't touch the tourists,'" said Mr. Sidhom, one of a growing number of wealthy, eminent Copts who are publicly addressing discrimination.

Many Copts, perhaps a half-million in the last 10 years, have left. They include a large number of university professors, professionals and wealthy businessmen. From places like the

United States and Canada, some are trying to call the world's attention to the Coptic plight while pressing the Coptic Church to be more active.

"They don't call it the church of martyrdom for nothing," said Selim Naguib, 58, a Copt who is a high court judge in Montreal and whose doctoral thesis on Copts represented their situation as a "grave case of human rights violations being systematically perpetrated by the government." Judge Naguib's Canadian Coptic Association is trying to bring the matter before the United Nations.

"At meetings in church, people often ask me until when are we going to watch silently as they burn our churches and kill our people," said Bishop Arsenios, 63, the religious leader of the Christian communities of Minya Province, whose population of 2 million is about 20 percent Christian.

The Coptic Church leadership rejects a confrontational approach, arguing that while there are indeed hard times for Christian Arabs they are not the hardest.

"You are looking at the past year or 10 years; I am looking at 1,900 years of Coptic history," said Father Aghaton, secretary to the supreme religious leader of Egypt's Copts, Pope Shenouda III. "We have gone through horrendous periods of oppression but here we are, strong, well educated and present. The facts are that all the Copts can do is hunker down in bad times and wait until the oppression lifts."

## Georgia Claims It Is at War With Russia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TBILISI, Georgia — The Georgian leader, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, declared Tuesday that his country was in direct military conflict with Russia, and he warned that a general mobilization was possible.

Mr. Shevardnadze addressed an emergency session of the Georgian parliament after Abkhazian secessionists attacked the Georgian-held capital of their breakaway province, allegedly with Russian help.

Georgian and Abkhazian military commanders reported hundreds of casualties as fierce battles involving tanks, aircraft and heavy artillery raged along the Gumista River on the outskirts of the Black Sea city of Sukhumi.

Georgian spokesmen said 25 of their troops were killed and 52 wounded on Tuesday. Since Sunday, the fighting has claimed the lives of 107 Georgian troops and civilians, and more than 200 have been injured, they said.

No precise count of Abkhazian casualties was available.

"Earlier, I avoided using the phrase 'Russian-Georgian conflict,' Mr. Shevardnadze told lawmakers. "I now state that we are dealing with a Russian-Georgian conflict."

Georgia has accused Russian troops of intervening to help the Abkhazian separatists, who want to create an autonomous homeland along the Black Sea between Russia and Georgia.

Earlier, on a visit to Sukhumi, Mr. Shevardnadze said the rebels had used warplanes bearing Russian Air Force markings to bomb the town.

The separatist command said the planes were Abkhazian.

In Moscow, the Russian Defense Ministry assailed Mr. Shevardnadze's allegations as "deliberate lies with certain political goals," according to the Interfax press agency.

The ministry put Russian troops in Abkhazia on high alert, with orders to shoot to kill in order to rebuff any armed attack. But it reaffirmed that the troops "remained neutral" and uninvolved in the conflict, according to Interfax.

Mr. Shevardnadze said he did not know if the Russian president, Boris N. Yeltsin, knew that the rebels had used warplanes with Russian Air Force markings and Russian artillery. But he added that if the Russian leader had known, "it only makes things worse."

## Yeltsin Sees 'Imminent Danger' From Parliament



President Francois Mitterrand of France, left, and President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia taking a tour Tuesday of the Kremlin grounds.

By Margaret Shapiro  
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin said Tuesday that a resurgence of Communist forces posed an "imminent danger" to Russian reforms and appealed to the West to speed up new economic assistance, rather than wait for a planned July summit meeting that may prove too late.

In his first public comments since his political humbling last week by Russia's conservative Congress, Mr. Yeltsin accused the legislature of deepening the country's political and constitutional crisis and said he was still deciding how to respond.

But he made it clear that the resurgence of conservative forces, led by the Congress of People's Deputies, posed as much of a challenge to the West as it did to his presidency.

Speaking at a news conference with President Francois Mitterrand of France, Mr. Yeltsin said he believed that the "Western world and Western countries did not understand the reality of revanchism" until last week, when the rift between him and the Congress widened considerably.

"Russia not only needs support today, but urgently," Mr. Yeltsin said. "We cannot wait for Tokyo in June or July. It may prove too late." He was referring to the planned Group of Seven summit meeting in Japan this summer.

The Russian leader said he was still "studying the scale of political damage done to the constitutional, state structure," in the wake of the refusal of the Congress to allow a national referendum on how the country should be governed.

At the same time, he warned that "a serious attempt to restore the Communist regime of the Soviets" was under way.

Mr. Mitterrand was in Moscow for a one-day meeting intended to show Western support for Mr. Yeltsin in his power struggle with the Congress, which last week curtailed the Russian president's powers, rebuffed all his efforts at compromise and indicated that it would go after him and his programs even more aggressively in the future.

This raised widespread fears in Russia that the Yeltsin era and its changes were coming to an end.

Rumors in Moscow and abroad say that the Russian leader may declare presidential rule and disband the Congress, a move fraught with political risk since it is unclear whether he could enforce such a act. Most analysts here believe something less extreme, such as organizing a nationwide plebiscite against the Congress, is likely.

The Interfax news agency reported Tuesday night that Mr. Yeltsin would convene an emergency meeting of his Security Council on Wednesday to discuss the situation.

Itar-Tass, meanwhile, reported that Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev had cut short a visit to Helsinki and flown to Moscow at Mr. Yeltsin's request.

The president appeared to place at least some hope for bolstering his position on a new, high-profile infusion of foreign assistance.

A year ago, Western leaders pledged \$24 billion in aid to Russia and other former Soviet republics, but much of it never arrived because of disputes with the various lending agencies and countries.

Mr. Mitterrand suggested that Group of Seven leaders swiftly show their support by agreeing to meet next month, instead of in July, to produce a new aid package. He proposed that such a meeting be held immediately after Mr. Yeltsin's summit meeting on April 3 and 4 with President Bill Clinton in Vancouver, British Columbia.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Beijing Envoy Defects to Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Chinese diplomat and his wife fled Russia on an overnight passenger ferry and applied for political asylum in Sweden, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Wang Liji, China's consul-general in St. Petersburg, arrived in Stockholm over the weekend and contacted the police on Monday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He said the couple arrived on tourist visas and were staying in a hotel. Several Chinese diplomats defected immediately after the democracy movement was crushed in 1989, but prior to that, defections were rare.

The Stockholm police inspector, Nils-Erik Palsteden, predicted the asylum request would be "expedited in a week," although most applications take three months to process.

### Kurds in Turkey Call for a Cease-Fire

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — Turkey's Kurdish separatists said Tuesday that they were ready to end their armed struggle for an independent state and called for a cease-fire.

But Ali Sapan, a spokesman for the Kurdistan National Liberation Front, the political wing of the Kurdistan Workers Party, said at a news conference here that if Turkey rejected the proposal, the Kurds would "intensify and resume the war all over Kurdistan."

He said the party was now a political force representing millions of people in Kurdistan and added that the Front supported the party's political position and principles. Mr. Sapan urged European governments to cooperate with the party and seek a "just and peaceful solution."

### German Firm Tied to Libya Gas Plant

FRANKFURT (AFP) — A number of European companies are helping build a chemical gas factory in Libya, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reported Tuesday.

Some German companies have unwittingly delivered equipment to be used in the production of chemical weapons, the daily added. The goods were believed to have been shipped to Libya through four Thai companies and two front companies in Hong Kong and Singapore, it said.

The newspaper said the public prosecutor might take action against a Linen machine-building company. The company, Westfalia-Bercoff Industrietechnik, said it was not aware of the end use of the equipment it supplied. The paper said the equipment had been used to build a tunnel as part of the poison gas factory under construction at Tarmua, 65 kilometers (40 miles) southeast of Tripoli.

### Abortion Ban Takes Effect in Poland

WARSAW (AP) — Poland's ban on most abortions went into effect Tuesday as doctors warned of a dangerous medical underground and newspapers carried advertisements for abortions abroad.

The law, signed by President Lech Walesa in February, ends 37 years of abortion on demand in Poland and stipulates a two-year prison term for doctors performing the procedure. In the 1980s, when contraceptive housing and optimism were in the shortest supply, an estimated 500,000 abortions were being performed annually, ending one in two pregnancies.

The law allows abortions only when doctors certify that the pregnancy endangers the mother's life, it is the result of rape or incest, or prenatal tests show the fetus to be seriously, irreparably damaged.

### Somali Factions Clash in Kismayu

MOGADISHU, Somalia (WP) — Somalia's precarious cease-fire suffered a serious blow Tuesday when one armed faction drove another out of the southern port town of Kismayu. Belgian soldiers who were there in tanks were unable to stop the fighting because civilians were in the way, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The battle erupted on the second day of peace talks between Somali factions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Many analysts here feared the fighting could disrupt the discussions.

About 300 soldiers loyal to a military leader known as General Mohammed Said Hersi Morgan expelled about 50 soldiers backing another factional figure, Colonel Omar Jess. The spokesman said he had no casualty figures but that intense shelling had rocked the city.

### UN Blames Khmer Rouge in Killings

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) — The UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia on Tuesday officially blamed Khmer Rouge guerrillas for the massacre last week of ethnic Vietnamese civilians. Up to 38 people, including many women and children, died in the March 10 massacre, which took place near the northwest town of Slem Reap.

"All indications are that the armed attackers were NADK elements," said Eric Falt, spokesman for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, referring to the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, or Khmer Rouge.

"We're confident of the exactitude of the findings," he said, adding that the conclusion was based on witness testimony. "The sole motive for the attack seems to have been to terrorize and to kill."

## TRAVEL UPDATE

A weeklong Paris Metro strike ended after drivers protesting a job restructuring plan suspended their action. The Communist-led General Labor Confederation, or CGT, said it was canceling its call to pursue the Monday-daily rush hour stoppages after three other unions announced last Tuesday that they were satisfied with proposals submitted by the transport authority. (AFP)

Scandinavian Airlines System will begin smoke-free European flights for a six-month trial period, starting March 28. (AFP)

Japan plans to remodel and expand the first terminal at Narita airport near Tokyo to ease passenger congestion. A second terminal was opened in December but the old building, built more than 20 years ago, needs to be expanded to cope with the rising traffic. (Reuters)

The storm that damped a foot of snow on Washington will delay the blooming of the cherry trees along the Tidal Basin, a harbinger of spring, the National Park Service said. The blossoms are expected to appear between April 8 and 12, instead of by April 5. (AP)

## Convoys Wait Despite a Serbian Pledge

*The Associated Press*

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serbian leaders promised Tuesday to let relief convoys reach besieged towns in eastern Bosnia and evacuate wounded on their return trips, aid officials said. But there were signs that the convoys could be delayed yet again by a Bosnian Serbian demand that they proceed without armed escorts, UN officials said.

The developments came as Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, left Sarajevo for another round of peace talks in New York. Radovan Karadzic, the leader of Bosnian Serbs, was expected to leave later.

Sarajevo, meanwhile, suffered its heaviest Serbian bombardment in at least three weeks. Sniper fire also increased, and Bosnian radio appealed for people to stay indoors. It said at least 20 had been wounded.

A statement by Bosnian Serbian headquarters, quoted by Yugoslavia's Tanjug press agency, promised safe passage for aid convoys that have been stalled for days on the Yugoslav-Bosnian border.

It followed reports by UN aid officials that

Mr. Karadzic had agreed to let the convoys reach several eastern Bosnian towns cut off by Serbian forces.

Reports from the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, overflowing with an estimated 50,000 residents and refugees, said thousands were on the streets without winter clothing.

The UN commander in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon of France, has set up operations in the town and vowed not to leave until its occupants receive aid, there is a cease-fire and civilians are allowed to evacuate.

"I renew my promise not to leave the city before I am sure that their survival is guaranteed," he said Tuesday in an interview by radio.

A convoy of food and medicine has been stalled at the border town of Mali Zvornik since Thursday awaiting permission to reach Srebrenica. It would be the first aid to the town, excluding U.S. Air Force aid drops, since Dec. 10. Three other convoys, for Tuzla, Sarajevo and Gorazde, also were waiting.

A spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Belgrade that Mr. Karadzic had given assurance that the convoys

in Mali Zvornik would be given permission to proceed.

She said Mr. Karadzic promised that all sick and wounded "including combatants if they give up their arms" could be evacuated, and that aid workers would be allowed to enter the town.

But Major Pepe Gallegos of the UN Protection Forces in Sarajevo said the United Nations had rejected a Serbian condition that the convoy leave its armored military escort behind.

**WEU Offers Embargo Aid**

The Western European Union defense group is offering armed police and speedboats to enforce the UN embargo against Serbia on the Danube, where barges have broken the sanctions, Reuters reported Tuesday from Brussels.

Diplomats said the agreement — which comes after Romania appealed for help in enforcing the embargo — was reached in principle at a meeting of WEU ambassadors in Brussels.

Sources said it was hoped the police force could be in place within a few weeks.

## 3 Arabs Killed in Occupied Lands, Rabin Cuts Short Trip

*The Associated Press*

JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians and wounded up to 68 on Tuesday, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin decided to return early from his U.S. trip.

The previous night, Jewish vigilantes were blamed for the fatal drive-by shooting of an Arab in the West Bank, and Jewish settlers ransacked through two West Bank villages in retaliation for the deaths of two Israelis run over by an Arab truck driver.

Mr. Rabin decided to return to Israel on Friday instead of Monday, as planned, because of the escalating violence, an aide said in

Washington. Six Israelis and nine Palestinians have been killed in the last two weeks.

Jewish settlers in the occupied lands had been demanding Mr. Rabin's immediate return, saying Arab attacks against Israelis were out of control.

Israeli radio said security officials decided Tuesday to deploy more soldiers and police around the country and in the occupied territories to deal with the violence.

The fighting in Gaza erupted in the Khan Yunis refugee camp after

the army lifted a curfew, army officials said. Palestinians threw a homemade bomb at soldiers but the explosion did not hurt anyone. Soldiers opened fire, triggering widespread stone-throwing by Arabs, the officials said.

Troops kept shooting to quell the riot, killing 17-year-old Said Salameh and wounding 45, the army said. Palestinians gave the youth's age as 13 and reported 67 wounded.

Several hours later, rioting erupted in the camp again, and 20-year-old Fayed Mohammed Bayouk was killed by army gunfire, Arab reports said.

In the West Bank refugee camp of Nur Shams, Jewish settlers opened fire from their car late Monday, killing Nasser Ali Abu Eishah, 22, Arab reports said.

In two West Bank villages near Nablus, Jewish settlers smashed cars in retaliation for the traffic death of two Israelis on Monday. Army officials said they did not know whether it was an accident or if the Arab driver meant to kill the two Israelis.

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## 3 Guilty of Raping a Retarded Girl in U.S.

*Reuters*

NEWARK, New Jersey — Three of four young men were found guilty Tuesday of raping a mildly retarded girl four years ago in a case that shocked the suburban community in New Jersey where they lived.

After eight days of deliberations, the jury found Christopher Archer, 21, and Kevin Scherzer, 22, guilty of two counts of rape, legally called first-degree aggravated sexual assault.

The youths were charged with sexually assaulting the girl with a baseball bat and broomstick, considered rape under New Jersey law.

The jury also found Kyle Scherzer, Kevin's fraternal twin, guilty of one count of rape. Mr. Archer and Mr. Scherzer were also found guilty of second-degree conspiracy to commit rape.

The fourth defendant Bryant Grober, 21, was acquitted of the main charges but was found guilty of third-degree conspiracy.

Mr. Archer and both Scherzers face up to 30 years in prison with a minimum of 15 years before being eligible for parole. Mr. Grober faces a maximum of five years in prison.

The incident took place in the basement of the Scherzer home in 1989.



# FIRST 100 DAYS / INSURANCE FOR ALL

## ★ POLITICAL NOTES ★

### Congressional Panels Start Belt-Tightening

WASHINGTON — Staff positions are being cut, travel is being curtailed, long-distance calls are being scrutinized. In short, the belt-tightening police are descending on congressional committees, and not even subscriptions to journals and newspapers are safe.

"We're going to have to watch the pennies very carefully," said Ceryld B. Christianson, staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "I'm just not going to be able to have a newspaper lying around in every reception room, in every nook and cranny."

The Senate has voted to cut committee budgets by 7.5 percent below 1992 levels, putting total spending for 1993 at \$55.7 million. Mr. Christianson said he had instructed the Foreign Relations staff to cut back on travel, watch long-distance calls and draw more heavily on witnesses from the Washington-New York axis for committee hearings. The committee also will have to drop six employees from its staff of 69, he added. "Obviously, people are not very happy about this," he said. (NYT)

### Small Bird, Big Test for California Ecosystem

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, California — The Clinton administration is facing the first test of its promise to save endangered species and serve economic interests. The instrument of that test is a four-inch-long songbird that meows like a kitten and lives in what is left of the coastal scrub of Southern California.

The blue-gray bird, the California gnatcatcher, has emerged as a national symbol of a possible new method of saving such species while preventing what Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt calls "national train wrecks," like the dispute over the northern spotted owl in the Pacific Northwest.

In a rare arrangement, developers, conservationists and government officials are working together to preserve an entire ecosystem, rather than haggling over emergency measures prescribed by the Endangered Species Act to save single species.

They are trying to find a compromise in which developers would be allowed to destroy parts of the bird's habitat if they agree to set aside enough crucial land to sustain the bird and its current ecosystem. Last month, Mr. Babbitt told a congressional hearing that he considered the California plan a model for the nation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service faces a Wednesday deadline to rule on whether the gnatcatcher is endangered or threatened, so Mr. Babbitt is likely to let the deadline pass, federal and state officials say, allowing more time to study the delicate issue. (NYT)

### Telephone Calls and Mail Inundate Congress

WASHINGTON — Almost without lull, the phone calls pour into Ilse Halpern's headset as she sits in the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, typing the caller's name, address and comments onto a computer screen.

After each call, she sends the message to the computer's memory bank. Each day, the messages — as many as 1,000, which are recorded by up to 10 of Senator Feinstein's 60 aides — are automatically sorted by issue, printed out and placed on the senator's desk.

Accompanying the phone calls are a flood of letters, postcards and mailgrams. In a recent week, the senator received 9,000 letters and 50,000 postcards and mailgrams — far more than her predecessor, John Seymour, ever got in a week.

The outpouring is all over Capitol Hill. Senate and House offices are being hit with twice as many calls this year as last — 4.2 million compared with 1.9 million in the first month alone, officials say. Mail to lawmakers has soared past 400 million pieces a year.

The surge is fed by several forces, including radio and television talk shows and the example of direct-voter-participation efforts of candidates in the 1992 presidential election.

But the principal cause, which concerns many because of its potential for manipulation, is the "grass-roots" lobbying of special interests. In the not-so-distant past, members of Congress identified hot issues from a handful of constituent letters. Now, numerous interest groups have sophisticated electronic networks that can generate an astonishing volume of calls and letters. (LAT)

### Quote / Unquote

President Bill Clinton at a news conference with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel: "Israel's security must be assured. The Israeli people cannot be expected to make peace unless they feel secure." (AP)

### Away From Politics

- Federal prosecutors in Los Angeles rested their case against four white police officers accused of violating the civil rights of Rodney G. King, whose videotaped beating by the police officers during his arrest after a high-speed chase horrified the nation.
- A fire at a hotel for transients in Chicago killed 13 people and injured at least 26, some of whom jumped from their rooms to escape the flames.
- Representative George E. Brown Jr., Democrat of California, warned that, by ordering a redesign of NASA's planned space station, the administration may end up not only killing the centerpiece of the U.S. manned space flight program but also dooming prospects for leading international "big science" projects.
- A newspaper reporter in Stuart, Florida, began serving 30 days in jail for refusing to identify the source who gave him a confidential child-custody order. The reporter is Tim Roche, 24.
- The Los Angeles school system, the nation's second-largest, voted unanimously to shift authority to individual schools and hold principals and teachers accountable for students' performance.
- Organizers of Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade were rebuffed in a renewed effort to stop the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston from marching Sunday in the annual event.
- Two dozen reputed associates of the Luchese, Genovese and DeCavalcante crime families were charged with running a gambling and drug-dealing operation in New Jersey and New York, prosecutors announced.
- A research study paid for by the Southern California Edison power company found no increase in cancer rates among utility workers exposed to electromagnetic fields, although other studies have linked the fields to increased risks of leukemia and brain cancer, particularly among children living near power lines and transformers. (NYT, AP, WP)

# Clinton's Plan Would Cover Mental Health Costs, Too

By Robert Pear  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — As part of its plan to revamp the national health-care system, the Clinton administration wants to guarantee mental health coverage, long relegated to second-class status under private insurance policies.

Many administration officials are determined to eliminate what they see as discriminatory treatment of mental illness by insurers. Private insurance policies often restrict coverage of mental health care, setting limits on the number of days of hospitalization, the number of outpatient visits or the total amount that may be spent for a person in a year or a lifetime.

In addition, under private insurance — as under Medicare, the federal program for the elderly and disabled — beneficiaries must usually pay 50 percent of the bills for outpatient mental health services, compared with 20 percent for physical ailments.

Confidential work papers from the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform, headed by Hillary Rodham Clinton, show that the administration is considering covering a wide range of mental health services, including treatment of severe mental illnesses, alcohol abuse and drug abuse.

The administration has yet to work out many details, including the precise scope of mental health coverage, the role of state mental hospitals, or how much of the new coverage would be provided by the government and how much by private insurers.

Likewise, the administration has not decided how to pay for the new services, or even whether spending for mental health care should be part of the general health budget or carved out in a separate category.

Currently, the federal government is responsible for about one-fourth of the \$67 billion spent each year on mental health care nationwide. State and local governments, private insurers and patients pay the rest.

The administration estimates that the new services would cost \$6.5 billion a year, for an increase of about 10 percent of the total. Potential sources of revenue listed in the documents include "taxes on liquor, cigarettes, firearms and ammunition," and assets seized from drug dealers.

In a confidential report titled "Health Care Reform

for Americans With Severe Mental Illnesses," the government says that "contrary to persistent myth, mental illnesses are both real and definable." Moreover, it says that "a growing body of research" shows that mental illness can be successfully treated.

"The division of diseases into medical and mental types becomes more arbitrary with every new study," said the report's authors, including several experts from the National Institute of Mental Health now on the task force.

The report says that 6 million people — more than 5 million adults and 992,000 children under age 18 — have severe mental disorders. Of these, it says, 64 percent have private insurance, though it is rarely adequate.

President Bill Clinton has said that by May 1 he will send Congress a detailed proposal to control health costs and to guarantee coverage for all Americans, including more than 35 million with no health insurance.

Tipper Gore, the wife of Vice President Al Gore and a mental health adviser to the administration's task force, has been insisting that people with mental

illness receive equitable treatment under whatever plan emerges. Mrs. Gore, who has bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology, works closely with the panel's subcommittee on mental health, headed by Dr. Bernard S. Arons, a psychiatrist from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Mrs. Gore said she was determined to end the "unfair and discriminatory treatment" of mental illness under private health insurance policies.

Sally J. Aman, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Gore, said: "There is no good reason why a diabetic who needs insulin can get it, but someone with manic-depressive illness who needs lithium cannot."

Work papers of the president's task force say there should be "no arbitrary or special limits on amount and duration of mental health services."

Some members of Congress agree. Senator Pete V. Domenici, a conservative Republican from New Mexico who has spent his legislative career trying to reduce the federal deficit, has introduced a bill that says coverage of severe mental illnesses must be "commensurate with the protection provided for other illnesses."

But in referring to the Salvadoran Army, Thomas O. Enders, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs from 1981 to 1983, conceded: "There is no doubt we were working with an organization in which there were violent and criminal elements of which we had no control."

Mr. Enders has come under criticism for denying reports by two American journalists of the 1982 massacre in which more than 500 peasants were killed by the U.S.-trained Atlacatl Battalion.

"The irony of this," he said, "is that if we had known of the extent of this terrible thing at the time, we would have probably so recoiled in horror, we would not have been able to encourage the Salvadorans to go forward with elections and transform their society." Between 1979 and 1992, the United States poured more than \$6 billion into El Salvador.

# U.S. Praises Report on Salvador, but Ex-Aides Are Skeptical

By Clifford Kraus  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has praised a United Nations report charging the Salvadoran Army with gross human rights abuses. But it stopped short of drawing the conclusion that the Reagan and Bush administrations, which strongly supported the Salvadoran military in its war with leftist guerrillas, bore some responsibility.

"We feel that the report is important in terms of revealing the truth, and that revealing the truth has to be a key element of an act of national reconciliation," said Richard A. Boucher, the State Department spokesman.

Asked if the Reagan and Bush administrations failed to protect human rights in El Salvador, Mr. Boucher said: "That's something that the analysts and

the historians can try to judge. I'm not going to try to make that judgment at this point."

The report did not explicitly hold Washington responsible for human rights violations, and generally did not discuss U.S. involvement in the war. But by offering a severely critical account of involvement by the Salvadoran military in massacres and political assassinations, it raised questions about what American officials did to stop those abuses.

The report also implicated several Salvadoran officers, most prominently the former defense minister, General René Emilio Poole, in atrocities before and after they were promoted through the ranks with Washington's support.

Former U.S. officials who dealt with El Salvador greeted the report with skepticism, arguing that the commission that prepared the report gave the accused

no chance to defend themselves and that it did not follow rules of evidence.

The officials also argued that their support of the Salvadoran military was critical in halting the advance of the Marxist guerrillas, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, and that the rebels would have installed a more authoritarian regime.

"It's ludicrous to say we didn't care," said Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs from 1985 to 1989. "You cannot make a human rights argument for abandoning the Salvadoran government in the early 1980s and permitting a Liberation Front victory. When the Carter administration left office, there were roughly 800 death-squad killings a month; and, by extremely hard work, we reduced that by 95 percent. That's a pretty good achievement."

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# Dissident Iranian, Ex-Diplomat, Is Slain in Rome

**Rome** — An exiled Iranian opposition official was slain on the streets of Rome on Tuesday when two men on a motor scooter pulled up to his car in rush-hour traffic and blasted him in the face with bursts from an automatic rifle, the police said.

The official, Mohammed Hussein Nagdi, 42, a former Iranian diplomat who defected to Tehran's opponents a decade ago, died as the police tried to get him to a hospital after what Iranian exiles called a further episode in the underground war between Iran's Islamic leaders and their adversaries.

The Mujahidin Khalq, an opposition group with offices in many capitals, including Washington, blamed the regime of President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran for the killing, which recalled a similar killing of a senior mujahidin figure in Switzerland three years ago.

At that time, Kazem Rajavi, an elder brother of Massoud Rajavi, the mujahidin leader, was slain in Geneva. French police arrested two men in connection with the killing in November. In recent years, many other Iranian exiles have been slain in Europe and elsewhere, including a former prime minister, Shahpur Bakhtiar, who was stabbed to death near Paris in August 1991.

"We are sure that this is another of the Rafsanjani regime's terrorist acts," said Mehry Mousavi, the London representative of the mujahidin. The Iranian press agency, IRNA, however, said Mr. Nagdi was "most probably a victim of intergroup differences" within the exiled opposition.

Mujahidin officials in Washington, speaking by telephone, said Mr. Nagdi was not a member of their organization but headed the Rome office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, a mujahidin-dominated umbrella group.

The Mujahidin Khalq was one of several groups that fought to overthrow the shah in Iran's 1979 revolution and later lost out to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's forces in the ensuing power struggle.

Since then, it has waged a propaganda war on the Tehran regime from its offices in the West and also boasts a military force, with bases in Iraq, that has staged cross-border raids into Iran.

The killing coincided with the start of a trial in Venice in which some 30 Italian bankers, industrialists and secret service officers are accused of making illegal arms sales to Iran worth \$130 million in contravention of an embargo during its war with Iraq from 1980 to 1988.

The accused include the former president and director general of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, whose Atlanta branch has also been implicated in illegal credits to Iraq during the same period.

—ALAN COWELL

# EGYPT: Terror Bombing

(Continued from page 1)

Over the last few weeks several bombings attributed to Islamic fundamentalists have rocked Kuwait, too, destroying video rental stores, a favorite target of fundamentalist terrorism in the Arab world. On Friday a bomb exploded near the Holiday Inn, close to Kuwait's international airport. No group claimed responsibility.

The explosion in Cairo came from a small bomb placed beneath one of five tourist buses parked outside the museum, which is the home of the world's finest collection of pharaonic art.

The terror campaign is beginning to shake the confidence of the large foreign business and diplomatic community that lives in Egypt, especially after the Muslim terror groups warned publicly of their plans to add foreign businesses to their targets.

The terror groups have vowed to destroy Egypt's sources of revenue unless the government accedes to their demands, which include the establishment of an Iran-style Islamic state.

Al Ahram, the Cairo daily, reported Tuesday that a primitive bomb had been found and defused in a building in the suburb of Madi, which is inhabited by foreigners, mostly Americans.

Foreign embassies, including that of the United States, have been warning foreigners to take special security precautions against the wave of terrorism.

—YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM

# South Africa Faces An AIDS Epidemic

By Bill Keller  
New York Times Service

**JOHANNESBURG** — Three years ago, when words like epidemic, plague, and doomsday began appearing in South African newspapers, some experts on AIDS thought South Africa had a unique opportunity to avoid the catastrophe that had befallen other African countries.

The slow sweep of the AIDS virus southward from its equatorial epicenter and the social quarantine created by the sanctions against the apartheid government, they said, meant South Africa had time to see the menace coming and head it off. It has not worked out that way.

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has colonized South Africa as relentlessly as it has the rest of the continent, abetted by apartheid's children: neglect, fatalism, and mistrust.

By conservative estimates, 300,000 people, mostly black heterosexuals, are infected with the virus, and it is spreading to at least 300 new carriers daily. In about 5,000 cases so far, the virus has erupted in AIDS.

"South Africa has moved from the pre-epidemic to the epidemic phase, the point where the curve rises rapidly," said Malcolm Steinberg, who oversees AIDS programs for the South Africa Medical Research Council.

There are also advances in the campaign against the virus — notably, a belated concord between the government and the African National Congress on AIDS strategy — but most experts now say that the virus is bound to run the devastating course that has become Africa's norm. It will hit its murderous stride just as a new multinational democracy tries to find its feet.

Peter Doyle, an analyst for Metropolitan Life Ltd., an insurance company whose forecasts are widely respected, predicts that by the end of the decade, 3 million people — more than 10 percent of the adult population — will carry the virus, and that 160,000 will be sick with the disease. The viral tide will still be rising.

Five years later, about one in four adults will carry the infection, Mr. Doyle estimates. Caring for the AIDS-afflicted will consume up to three-fourths of the national health budget, a study by the Medical Research Council found.

Despite the warning, South Africa still lags behind other African countries in combating the epidemic. Neighboring Botswana, for example, no richer than South Africa, spends three times as much per capita on the prevention and treatment of AIDS.

A deep puritanical streak in

# CHINA: Stronger Military

(Continued from page 1)

many countries. Other Asian countries are nervous, however, largely because China has boundary disputes with at least seven of its neighbors and has been aggressive lately in pressing its claims.

Diplomats and other military experts say that among the improved weapons systems China is building on its own or obtaining from Russia or other countries are fighter bombers, surface-to-air missiles, destroyers, frigates, tanks and radar equipment. Chinese documents also say that the country will acquire an aircraft carrier.

Distressed by suggestions abroad that China is becoming a threat, officials in Beijing have launched a vigorous counteroffensive over the last few weeks to dispute such assertions.

"Recently, some people in Western countries have deliberately spread slanderous rumors that China is building up its national defense to a level 'seemingly beyond a capability for defense,'" the official Xinhua press agency complained a few weeks ago.

Prime Minister Li referred to such analyses in a meeting last month with a former U.S. secretary of state, Alexander M. Haig Jr., and said: "All these fabricated rumors and absurd tales are totally ridiculous."

A Chinese official cited inflation as a factor in rising military spending. But according to official statistics, retail prices rose less than 7 percent last year.

An analysis published in December by the China Institute for Contemporary International Relations, which is sponsored by the government's intelligence agency, said: "China has also taken note of the destabilizing factors in the adjacent areas and has to increase its defense capability moderately when possible."

While the article did not name these destabilizing factors, they probably include the upheavals in Central Asia and the competition among neighboring countries for the islands in the South China Sea.

Sympathetic diplomats — usually those from countries that are not adjacent to China — also say that it is natural for a country to bolster its military spending as its overall economy grows.



A delegate at the National People's Congress in Beijing, who did not conceal finding Tuesday's budget speeches tedious going.

# CHIC: To Put it Rather Longwindedly, They're Going After the Prolix Members of Congress

(Continued from page 1)

idea that "reform" was a magic word when, egged on by the Republicans and some Democrats, the House voted in January to start streamlining its operations by killing select committees, including the one on Narcotics Abuse and Control that he headed.

In the Democratic cloakroom the other day, another senior congressman reflected the paranoia in some quarters when he approached Representative Eric D. Fingerhut, a freshman from Cleveland, who won office on a platform of cleaning up Congress. Mr. Fingerhut is now co-chairman of the Democratic New Members' Task Force on Reform.

"I hear you guys are going to take away our telephones," the older member growled to the 33-year-old newcomer, who offered reassurance that, while members of Congress may have to pay for their own parking some day, their long-distance calls are safe.

On the other hand, Representative Jim Nussle of Iowa, who has just been named chairman of the Republican House Reform Task Force, is jubilant at the reinforcements. Last year, as a 31-year-old freshman, Mr. Nussle wore a bag on his head on the House floor to dramatize his embarrassment about the House bank scandal, and introduced the perk-purging "Nussle Congressional Reform Package," with chapter headings

like "Use a Stamp" and "Go Home." Though the bill died in committee last year, in the hands of lawmakers who had a hard time taking a man in a paper bag seriously, he says he plans to reintroduce it.

"Reform wasn't very popular last year," Mr. Nussle said. "Now, all of a sudden, everyone's a reformer. It's almost like, 'Can you top this?'"

Since Calvinist winds have swept through the Capitol before without much effect, except to exponentially increase the number of ethics committees, it is hard to say whether anything will really change. Ever since the news release was invented, politicians have used it to portray themselves as crusaders, even if they did not care about the particular virtue they were advocating.

Even those who support the idea of revamping Congress say there is a fair amount of showboating going on.

"The problem is that there are so few perks left there isn't really much for them to go after, but they promised their constituents that they would," said James Glassman, the editor of Roll Call, a weekly Capitol Hill newspaper. "So now we are beginning to see evidence that they are descending into triviality."

Consider the case of Representative Robert D. Inglis, a 33-year-old freshman Republican from South Carolina whose starched white

shirt and close-cropped hair make him look more like an FBI agent than the archetypal panchy, back-slapping Southern congressman.

After the House banking scandal sent a shiver of rage through the country about special treatment for members of Congress, the leadership scurried to set a fee of \$400 for the gymnasium. But increasing the fee into the vicinity of market value was not good enough for Mr. Inglis. He has sent the House Gym Association a check for \$520 and a

letter explaining that he had calculated the amount he would have to pay for a "nicer" health club in his district, and hence would pay no less for the House gym.

Unlike some of his more free-wheeling colleagues, Mr. Fingerhut said he would use his frequent-flyer miles to lower his travel expenses by buying more tickets to fly home to his district.

"You might laugh, but I feel very strongly about the ethics of frequent-flyer miles," he said. "We

bought these things with taxpayer dollars, and it's outrageous when people use them to go to Hawaii."

Representative Roscoe G. Bartlett, a freshman Republican from Maryland who lives within commuting distance of the Capitol, boasts that he has not yet submitted his first expense account, and hopes not to submit any. "I want to make a statement that it is not money that brought me here," he said. "I just want to serve the people."

# READY: Invasion Plans

(Continued from page 1)

house, bar, hotel, rail station and subway entrances.

If a combined East German and Soviet force had moved to conquer West Berlin and West Germany according to plan, the West would have been initially "outmaneuvered and overwhelmed," Vice Admiral Weisser said. "The operational planning was far more advanced than anything our intelligence had envisioned."

In vast cellars previously unknown to the West, according to officials, the East Germans kept huge arsenals, including weapons, vehicles and railroad equipment that would have allowed East German rolling stock to be used immediately on West German rails, which were built to different standards.

On "Day X," as the plan called the day of invasion, specific units were assigned to tasks such as capturing U.S., British and French military bases in West Berlin, shutting down airports and taking over the city's radio and TV stations, newspapers, museums, telephone switching stations, churches and universities.

The plan envisioned 32,000 troops invading a West Berlin that would be defended by 12,000 allied forces and local police.

# ITALY: Scandal Deepens

(Continued from page 1)

in return for help in securing a fuel supply contract at a power station.

Proclaiming his innocence, Mr. Altissimo resigned his party position after declaring: "I have nothing to do with bribes coming from ENEL or anywhere else."

Magistrates have also notified Antonio Cariglia, former head of the small Social Democrat coalition partner, that he is under investigation, meaning that all four members of the coalition have now been drawn into the scandal.

"I don't expect these players to be the players in the new game," Mr. Amato said in London, terming his own administration "a transitional government breaking the country's old rules and preparing the country for a new political system possible only with a new electoral system."

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STAGE/ENTERTAINMENT

Shakespeare, Almost the Way It Was

By John Rockwell  
New York Times Service

LONDON — This winter a troupe of professional actors who call themselves the What You Will Theatre Company are traipsing about London in plays by William Shakespeare. Nothing unusual in that, one might think; London is cluttered with Shakespearean actors acting Shakespeare.

plays were performed at the dawn of the 17th century have abounded for years. The current efforts owe their direct lineage, it would seem, to John Barton, the Royal Shakespeare Company director. He personally inspired Patrick Tucker, who worked with the company's educational wing, but who is now best known as the director of the popular British soap opera, "Brookside," on ITV.

To keep them from making off with plays, actors were given only their own parts.

Even Tucker and his disciples concede that much of their work is speculative. "A lot of the fine-tuning of what we do is just plain guesswork," said David Angus, a What You Will actor. But Tucker argues that no plausible counter-theories have been advanced.

There have been compromises. Neither Tucker's Original Shakespeare Company nor the What You Will company — with Atkins — cast boys in women's roles. Tucker argues that some women did act in Elizabethan times and that "boys" really meant postpubescent apprentices. But he also concedes, "I have a large number of actresses who want to work this way."

In addition, presenting several consecutive performances of the same play, even in different locations, robs all performances after the first of the ideal freshness. For that, one would need a closely packed repertory of different plays, as well as a stunted education in which modern actors and audiences could somehow encounter Shakespeare without prior knowledge.

HENCE no one is ready to jettison the modern British Shakespeare tradition altogether. Sam Wanamaker, the London-based American director and actor who leads the project to reconstruct the Globe Theatre, says he prefers a more open-ended approach in which Tucker's method would be employed for only one "purely educational" production a season.

Wanamaker places his faith in the structure itself, which he says will be the first to come even close to the actual conditions of Shakespeare's time. But even so, some guessing is involved, since the Globe site cannot be systematically excavated, given a more recent, historically protected building constructed above it.

Mamet's 'Squirrels': Writer's Block

By Sheridan Morley  
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Thirty or so years back, the success of Edward Albee's "Zoo Story" led a large number of young American playwrights to think they too could write two-handers about disparate men thrown together by circumstance in which the power gradually shifts from one to the other. One of these was evidently David Mamet, the



Petherbridge (top) and O'Shea in "Squirrels."

But around this stunning and stupendous comic turn, on stage for barely a quarter of the play, Hytner has oddly and uncharacteristically failed to build a coherent production. True, he has not been much helped by Bob Crowley's wonderfully off-center set, which suggests not so much Oscar Wilde as Lewis Carroll. With everything at odd angles, one half expects the Mad Hatter to join Algernon's tea party.

As for Algernon and John Worthing, Grant and Jennings start the evening as a couple of lip-kissing gay young things, an intriguing intellectual idea, given the trials of Oscar Wilde's private life at the time he was writing this, but one that is incapable of being sustained once the women appear. All through the evening, there is the fatal offstage sound of intellectual ideas about the play crashing unfinished into the scenery: only the Dame and her despised beam (Ty-zack) seem to know exactly what they are doing. The two women, Claire Skinner and Susannah Harker, are hopelessly out of period and even the great and good Pearson seems not quite yet to have caught the measure of Chasuble. All in all a deeply tentative evening.

AND finally, out at the Riverside Studios, "Invade My Privacy" is an intriguing five-character cabaret built around the work of the poet and lyricist Fran Landesman, she of "Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most." Jacqueline Dankworth leads a strong cast for Linda Marlowe, and Landesman's bittersweet, quirky wit, somewhere halfway from Dory Previn back to Ogden Nash, reminds us yet again of the need London has for a resident cabaret theater, where all such songbook shows could find a semi-permanent home.

Faced with the need to give this one some sort of a frame, Marlowe has set it at a dinner party from hell where the lovers dine and a manic waitress exchange bitter romantic and marital and sexual experiences in poems set to a jazz beat and the occasional parody ("Paranoia" where the rage keeps tearing through the brain) of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" Most of Landesman's bittersweet lyrics are about lost love and found mistakes ("I met him at a jumble sale, a slightly damaged adult male") and they are lively with regret.

New Festival Director

NEW YORK — The New York Shakespeare Festival has fired JoAnne Akalaitis, the theater's director, and hired the Broadway playwright George C. Wolfe to succeed her. Akalaitis was the artistic director chosen by the festival's founder, Joseph Papp, who died in 1991. The board of trustees appointed Wolfe artistic director as well as producer of the festival, one of the leading nonprofit theaters in the United States. Akalaitis's troubled 20-month tenure was marked by a decline in funding and subscriptions and a sporadic production schedule.

Chabrol's Hard Look at Vichy Newsreels

By Joan Dupont

PARIS — Movie houses during the Occupation were full. Before the feature, France-Païse-Accablés treated audiences to a stream of propaganda in praise of Marshal Pétain and his Vichy regime. The newsreels also painted late messages against France's "enemies": Bolsheviks, Freemasons and foreigners.

critical eye, an intelligent montage of documents, with significant omissions, insistent repetitions and ironic cuts. A shot of the meeting between Pétain and Hitler is shown repeatedly, but no image exists of the detention of Jewish families in the Vel d'Hiv, the Velodrome d'Hiver sports stadium, who subsequently made up convoys for Auschwitz; instead, the newsreel that week of July 1942 showed a "Fresh Air Crusade," parents waving their children off on vacation.

Fifty years after Vichy, members of the regime who manipulated the country and the media appear as grotesque as movie villains — the strange blind face of Georges Scapini, a Vichy diplomat assigned to look after the interests of French POWs in Germany, Jacques Doriot, the French fascist leader with the style of a revivalist, and the fastidious silhouette of René Bousquet, the police chief behind the Vel d'Hiv arrests.

Some critics have remarked that despite his sophisticated montage, Chabrol's studied lack of a point of view detracts from the usefulness of his documentary. Jean Daniel in Le Nouvel Observateur and Jérôme Garcin and Anne Audren in L'Événement du Jeudi are concerned that the film, by not clearly explaining these images, keeps today's generation in the dark. Daniel

Heymann in Le Monde noted that the association of Jews and rats may still remain stamped on unwary public imagination; she wonders if young people today have the perspective, the tools to see through the lies of Vichy.

Resnais's "Nuit et Brouillard" and Marcel Ophüls's "The Sorrow and the Pity" (1971), were dramatic revelations in their day. Can a documentary about Vichy 50 years later have the same kind of impact? Chabrol holds up a mirror, a deformed image that people who lived under the Occupation probably prefer to forget, to a generation that has little passion for history.

Chabrol's fascination with the past goes way back. Raised during the Vichy regime by parents in the Résistance, he has made feature films from chronicles of crime and punishment — men who manipulate crowds, who murder their wives, women who poison their husbands or themselves, characters like Madame Bovary, Landru and Mabuse. Now, a month before René Bousquet comes up for trial, he has told a diabolical story straight, and set it in the eye of the storm.

Joan Dupont is a Paris-based writer specializing in the arts.

PARIS FASHION

Montana Feels the Prevailing Winds

By Suzy Menkes  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The tempest that battered the United States has its fashion parallel. A hurricane of change is blowing, with new ideas whirling, drifting, altering the familiar landscape and obscuring established monuments. There is the sense this autumn-winter season that strong designers are standing firm, bending with the prevailing wind, but rooted to what they know and understand. To put it more succinctly, the big names are not making news.

In Claude Montana's show Tuesday, his icy sculptured tailoring had melted — but only at the edges. Here a coat sleeve flared gently, there a short swing jacket was pinked at its hem. Lush chenille, furrowed cord, plush velvet, suede and fur were soft — but their silhouettes were still sharp.

It was a swashbuckling collection with a romantic feeling done in a modern way: a pristine white collar and cuffs to a clerically correct coat, or suede. Puss in Boots striding out with ribbed leggings under a brief jacket. We have seen and worn that look before, but Montana freshened it with a Robin Hood theme — his subtle way of using a costume-party inspiration without delving into a trunk of old clothes.

The show opened with a precisely tailored long coat and then the swing jackets over wide pants. They looked best in jewel-colored corduroy velvet — to-paz, emerald, sapphire, turquoise, with matching leggings and suede boots. Like a lot of Montana's work, they might be daunting to wear, but they made a striking passage in the show.

What will his aficionados wear? Pants, of course, cut wide beneath the swing jackets which was a strong proportion. Montana does not really believe in long skirts, although he made them credible, and even desirable, in slender ribbed knit under an elongated tunic sweater. All the knitwear was strong from the ribbed daytime tunics to a black chenille open-work sweater at night.

The rest was graphic tailoring in navy and white, gray flannel stroked at the collar with black velvet or chocolate wool softened with satin trim. Montana's signature leather and shearing jackets took well to the Merry Men theme, with flat collars



Montana's shearing jacket à la Robin Hood; Alaïa pushes bust up and hem down.

swirling round the shoulders and the jackets curving in above the narrow hose.

The sexy-fashion-starved photographers were overjoyed when the word went round that Azzedine Alaïa was showing. "Naomi Naomi!" they called as supermodel Campbell sashayed out in a clinging one-piece suit. "Carla, Carla, Carla" they drooled as Bruni's bust rose up and over a mid-calf knitted tube. "Linda, lovely Linda," they cried at Evangelista, then even though she was wearing an apron dress over a white shirt, which is the nearest Alaïa will get to a nunery.

The designer of sexpot silhouettes had changed — but in his fashion. A chaste silk cardigan slithered to the ankles — but then opened to show deep-cut panties and a bra top. Hems down, necklines scooped was Alaïa's method of dealing with elongated skirts. He also sent out skirts brief, shorts sweet and tops baring the midriff.

Katharine Hamnett has dis-

covered grunge six months after everyone else. But maybe the British designer never really left the sexy/scuffy/hippie look behind. Her contribution to fashion this season was not weighty. In fact it can best be described as a bit of fluff: Mongolian lamb (a hot back-to-the-1970s-trend) edged calf-length vests and ankle boots; sweaters were as hairy as a mountain goat, snow white, cropped off to show a bare midriff over a low-slung skirt. The flung-together look of flower children gone to seed was on target for fashion now. But will it survive until winter?

Designers who are on a young wavelength just don't care about hemlines. July Bét sent out an upbeat collection, always with a skinny, body-hugging silhouette, but with hems stopping anywhere from mid-calf to mid-thigh. Designer Lamine Kouyaté makes re-cycled clothes — a strong story this season. But instead of making the collection look ecological and worldly, there were vivid colors and sexy



shapes for the apron dresses wrapping the body or the layered stretch dresses, made up of sweatshirts, T-shirts, old cardigans and new party hose that Kouyaté gives his own individual stamp.

Lanvin — although not in its ready-to-wear — was once Claude Montana's patch. His brief stint at the couture house has left an indelible mark on the house. There was nothing exactly wrong with Dominique Morlot's collection, which contained fine long coats, the best gathered gently at the back to soften the tailored lines and in rich wintry colors like cranberry, pine green or peat brown. Since his background is as a menswear designer, Morlot played on a dandy theme for pantsuits with curving jackets. Hair was slicked into loose pin curls. Not a jewel broke the stern lines. The clothes might be nice to wear (the actress Emmanuelle Béart sitting center front was in a labber of excitement). It was dead boring to sit through.

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INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

Dissuade North Korea

North Korea may not yet be in a position to use those nuclear arms it has allegedly been developing. But for the past few days, it has been flirting with diplomatic suicide and scaring a lot of people. It announced withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and, for good measure, partial mobilization of its million-strong military.

A Start on Base-Closings

The Clinton administration was required by law to submit a list of military bases to be closed, but nothing in the law said the list had to be serious. The fact that it is a serious list speaks well of the president and the defense secretary who compiled it.

Truth About El Salvador

A UN Truth Commission now confirms what the Reagan administration sought to cloud — that terrible crimes were perpetrated in freedom's name by the armed forces of El Salvador. Its report serves the past by baring the truth, and the future by calling for the removal of accused officers and the banishment from public posts of rebel leaders responsible for human-rights crimes.

Other Comment

The West's Russia Dilemma
The West has moved a step closer to pumping renewed financial aid into Russia to bolster President Boris Yeltsin's shaky economic reforms.



The Outside World Cannot Determine Russia's Fate

TOKYO — The emergency meeting Sunday of the Group of Seven major industrialized democracies was ostensibly aimed at supporting President Boris Yeltsin in his power struggle against conservative forces in the Russian parliament.

From Moscow to Mexico, a Population Trap Looms

WASHINGTON — When President Bill Clinton meets President Boris Yeltsin in Vancouver, British Columbia, on April 3, one topic that ought to be on the agenda is the unavailability of modern contraceptives in most of Russia, and the low priority that Moscow gives to women's health.

Beyond the Legends, St. Patrick Belongs to Us All

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — In America, St. Patrick's Day is a quintessential ethnic celebration, highlighting Irish-American identity as non-British, non-Protestant, non-Italian or Polish (although Roman Catholic like these), certainly not black or Jewish, and, in some quarters, not-homosexual.

OPINION

The Barriers To a German Peace Force

MUNICH — The debate in Germany on whether the Bundeswehr should join in international attempts to keep and enforce the peace worldwide has centered on constitutional barriers. Many politicians reinforce the impression that German constitutional law is the only obstacle to military normalcy.

1893: A Woman Doctor

BRUSSELS — Mile. Clemence Everart, a young lady twenty-six years of age, to-day (March 16) passed with the highest distinction the examination for the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

1918: Using Dutch Ships

LONDON — There is reason to believe that Holland, in her reply to the Allied Note with reference to the requisition of Dutch ships in American and British ports, will offer to conclude an agreement with the main condition that Dutch ships will not be forced to navigate in the danger zone.

1943: An American Loss

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (From our New York edition) — The Americans lost their first major battle with the German Army in the central Tunisian fighting from Feb. 14 to 16 because of an error in intelligence combined with a faulty disposition of troops.

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OPINION

Cutting the U.S. Military: Tell Us the Bad Part, Too

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — The United States is preparing to pare down the military power created by almost a half-century of American strategy and investment and a national lifetime of industrial growth. Aside from those whose jobs are threatened, most Americans are paying about as much close attention as to the peeling of a banana.

ON MY MIND

The deep reduction of the forces is real change, affecting not just jobs but the destiny and safety of the United States and a good part of the rest of the world. It could turn out to be the essence of a vision. It could open new ways for the United States to strengthen itself at home and abroad. It could also turn out to be the greatest miscalculation since we Americans disarmed after World War II knowing that Stalin would not be stupid enough to bother us.



Army counted in millions, with nuclear weapons, be able to resist the military "logic" of a nuclear first strike? And suppose Middle East terrorists make the United States a constant target. Suppose the United States knows they are sponsored by a state with access to portable nuclear weapons. With reinforced U.S. forces could a new Desert Storm be organized as swiftly as the last?

Crossing Borders, Opening Doors

By Hans Koning

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut — I crossed my first border as a teenager, an Amsterdam high school student. The year was 1942, an unhealthy year for traveling in Europe. Holland had been under German occupation since May 15, 1940; as it was earmarked for annexation by Hitler, it was not put under military government like Belgium and northern France, but under a civilian, Reichskommissar Seyss-Inquart (who would be hanged at Nuremberg). Therefore, the border between Holland and Belgium had been sealed, with a stretch of no-man's-land on each side.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Rights in Singapore

In response to my column "Human Rights Should Be a Common Concern," Opinion, Feb. 15, Bilahat Kauffman of the Singapore Foreign Ministry takes exception to two points (Letters, Feb. 25).

Hope It's for Love

Regarding "High-Powered Princess Takes a Bow" (Report, Jan. 20): I can only hope that Masako Ownda sincerely loves Prince Naruhito, heir to the imperial throne of Japan, because if she does not, her future looks quite unhappy.

Thailand and Its Neighbors

Regarding "The Thai Role in Cambodia" (Letters, Jan. 28) from Salkhik Krairiksh, Thailand's director-general of information: I am truly sorry if my article "Let Thailand Take the Helm and Stop the Phantoms" (Opinion, Jan. 14) was perceived as being unfriendly to Thailand.

Where the Surplus Went

Many corporate and business "experts" beseech President Bill Clinton's proposed corporate tax increase because it would take away the "assets" they need to create jobs: surplus dollars. Yet for the past decade these corporations have had that "asset" and used it for huge mergers and asset increases for top management.

Let There Be Peace

Wednesday is St. Patrick's Day, but my thoughts are very sad. I think of department stores in London being bombed. I think of innocent people being shot to death in front of their families. I think of roadblocks in Northern Ireland. I think of inhuman atrocities being perpetrated by Roman Catholics against Protestants and vice versa.

Occupation vs. Secession

The war of Bosnian and Croatian Serbs against Croats and Muslims is frequently compared to Hitler's 1938 occupation of Czechoslovakia. The analogy is clearly false. Germany occupied a neighboring country, sovereign for 20 years, ostensibly to protect the German minority from mistreatment by Czechs, Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia started armed resistance to prevent secession of these areas from Yugoslavia before anybody recognized the new states.

On Homosexual Troops

A lesbian and a veteran of the U.S. Army, I oow live in the Netherlands, whose minister of defense, Reus ter Beek, has made it his personal mission to create a more welcoming climate for gay men and lesbians in the military.

GENERAL NEWS

France's Socialist Savior Surveys the Cliff

By Alan Riding New York Times Service VERNUILLET, France — For a politician hailed as the only man who can rescue the Socialist Party after its expelled by conservatives in parliamentary elections next Sunday, Michel Rocard seemed strangely dispirited as he campaigned in his district.

Yet, in Vernuillet and even in nearby Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, a medieval town on the Seine where Mr. Rocard has served as mayor since 1977, disappointment with Mr. Mitterrand's 12 years in office seems to blur with a general distrust of all politicians and parties.

Germany Reports Large Drop In Crimes by Extreme Right

BONN — The German police registered 141 crimes by rightist extremists in January and February, a drop of nearly 40 percent from a year earlier and from more than 500 in September. Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters was quoted as saying.

Mr. Rocard is not the only leading Socialist who may be punished in balloting next Sunday and in a second round of voting on March 28. Polls say a conservative coalition may win as many as 430 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, sweeping many current ministers out of Parliament.

Sylvain Floirat, French Industrialist, Dies at 93

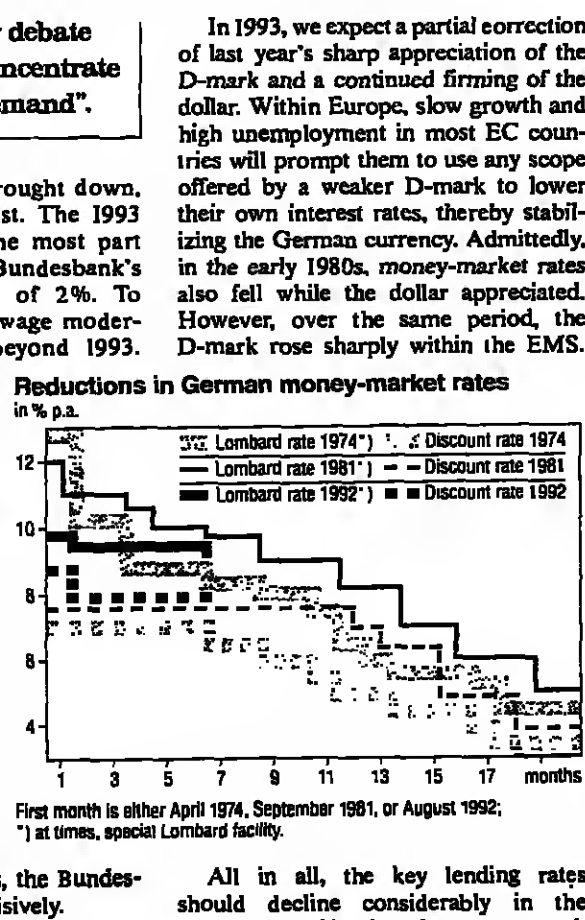
PARIS — Sylvain Floirat, 93, who became a captain of French industry with interests that spanned aeronautics, publishing and luxury hotels, died Sunday, the radio station Europe 1 said without elaborating.

Mr. Floirat also owned luxury hotels, the principal concern of the new conglomerate Matra-Hachette. Alberto Franco Nogueira, 74, Portugal's foreign minister from 1961 to 1969 during the dictatorship of Antonio Salazar, died on Sunday.

VIEWPOINT The Commerzbank report on German business and finance

German monetary policy: a re-run of the past?

Although German monetary policy had been under attack in the rest of Western Europe for some time, criticism only gathered momentum at home towards the end of last year, when it became clear that western Germany's economy was weakening. With money-market rates down from their mid-1992 peak, the debate is now focusing on the timing and scope of future reductions of the official rates.



With a rise of 3 1/2% estimated for 1993 as a whole, consumer prices are climbing much more slowly than in the two earlier periods. And almost 1 percentage point is due to the increases in the value-added tax and in administered prices. However, Germany's inflation rate is currently higher than in many other industrial countries. What is more, the prospect of European monetary union has made a high degree of stability even more essential.

All in all, the key lending rates should decline considerably in the course of 1993, though not as much as in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. The Lombard rate should have reached 7% or lower by year-end. While monetary easing is vital for a recovery, economic-policy debate should not solely concentrate on stimulating demand, thereby totally neglecting the more urgent task of promoting medium-term growth.

COMMERZBANK German know-how in global finance

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including page number '9', 'Page 9', and various small notices and advertisements.



# NYSE

Tuesday's Closing  
Tables include the worldwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE
120.00	118.00	IBM	3.00	2.8	12.5	120.00	118.00	IBM	3.00	2.8	12.5
100.00	98.00	Microsoft	0.00	0.0	15.0	100.00	98.00	Microsoft	0.00	0.0	15.0
50.00	48.00	Apple	0.00	0.0	10.0	50.00	48.00	Apple	0.00	0.0	10.0
20.00	19.00	Oracle	0.00	0.0	8.0	20.00	19.00	Oracle	0.00	0.0	8.0
10.00	9.50	Amazon	0.00	0.0	6.0	10.00	9.50	Amazon	0.00	0.0	6.0

## U.S. Trade Deficit Yawns

### Desert Storm Payments Dried Up in '92

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The U.S. current-account deficit, the broadest measure of trade performance, widened abruptly last year because foreign contributions for American military leadership dried up, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

"Cash contributions from coalition partners in Operation Desert Storm held down the current-account deficit in 1991, but no sizable contributions were received in 1992," said the official report.

The total deficit shot up to \$62.4 billion, from \$3.7 billion in 1991, when the United States was receiving cash contributions from military allies for its leadership in the successful campaign to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

The Commerce Department said the 1992 shortfall in the U.S. current account was the widest gap since it totaled \$92.12 billion in 1990.

The cash payments artificially held down the 1991 current-account shortfall and distorted the statistics on U.S. trade performance.

The current account measures trade not only in merchandise but also in services, as well as investment flows between countries.

During the fourth quarter last year, the deficit widened to \$22 billion from \$15.8 billion. A slimmer quarterly deficit on merchandise trade was more than offset by smaller surpluses on services and investment income by higher government grants than in the third quarter.

The deficit on merchandise trade in the fourth quarter fell to \$26 billion, from \$27.6 billion in the third quarter.

But the U.S. surplus on services like travel and insurance fell to \$12.9 billion, from \$15.7 billion. At the same time, the fourth-quarter surplus on overseas investments contracted to \$839 million from the third quarter's \$2.97 billion.

Many analysts had also expected the current-account deficit to widen last year as weakness in economies overseas cut into U.S. exports. Exports had been one of the few areas of strength in the American economy in the last four years.

The government also announced Tuesday that new housing construction rose 2.5 percent in February, propped by a rebound in apartment projects.

February's annual rate of 1,208 million starts followed an 8.4 percent decrease in January to 1,178 million, earlier reported as a 7.2 percent loss to 1.19 million.

But the Commerce Department noted in its report that single-family housing construction lost ground for the second consecutive month.

"The lower mortgage rates aren't helping the market as well as they should," said Marco Babic, an economist at Evans Economics in Washington.

(Reuters, AP, UPI)

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50.00	48.00	Apple	0.00	0.0	10.0	50.00	48.00	Apple	0.00	0.0	10.0
20.00	19.00	Oracle	0.00	0.0	8.0	20.00	19.00	Oracle	0.00	0.0	8.0
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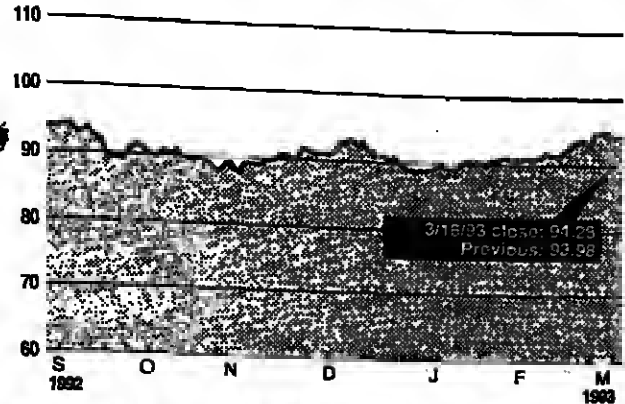
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THE TRIB INDEX: 94.28
International Herald Tribune World Stock Index...



The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in Tokyo, New York, London, and Australia...

Table with 3 columns: Asia/Pacific, Europe, N. America. Includes closing and previous values.



Table of Industrial Sectors: Energy, Utilities, Finance, Services, Capital Goods, Raw Materials, Consumer Goods, Miscellaneous.

For readers desiring more information about the International Herald Tribune World Stock Index...

VW Net Tumbles By 87%

Lopez Is Named Production Chief

Resters BONN — Volkswagen AG, Europe's largest carmaker...

A company statement issued after a much-anticipated supervisory board meeting...

VW's group net profit in 1992 tumbled to 147 million DM...

Strong sales in the first half of 1992 helped VW boost group revenue...

VW had blamed weak sales in the second half of the year...

In addition to the cut in its common stock dividend, VW cut its dividend on preference shares...

Mr. Lopez, 52, will replace Günter Hartwich, 57, as the man responsible for VW's global production.

Dieter Ullsperger, 47, chief financial officer, will leave VW...

Ulrich Seiffert, 51, responsible for research and development...

The arrival of Mr. Lopez, who is known as one of the toughest managers in the industry...

Britain Aims for Growth, for Now

By Erik Ipsen

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Britain's chancellor of the Exchequer presented a budget on Tuesday...

"This is a budget for sustained recovery, a budget for jobs," Norman Lamont told...

For the fiscal year beginning in April, the chancellor pledged that his proposals would be broadly neutral...

That neutrality will shift with an unexpected vengeance next year, however...

To demonstrate the government's commitment to curbing its deficit...

£6.5 billion (\$9.3 billion) in the fiscal year beginning April 1994...

The need for such huge revenues to be raised was underlined by the chancellor's own surprisingly gloomy predictions...

"I do not believe that borrowing on this scale is acceptable," Mr. Lamont said.

He went so far as to brand the steady rise in the government's borrowing as the greatest threat posed to the recovery of Britain's flat-topped economy...

Mr. Lamont insisted that it would be folly to simply wait for "the recovery to solve all our problems."

See BRITAIN, Page 13

though they will not actually begin to take effect until the following year.

Among the more important revenue raisers was an extension of the value-added tax to cover domestic fuel and power bills...

Mr. Lamont carefully painted his fuel and energy taxes as consistent with the government's desire to do its bit to combat global warming...

National insurance contributions will also rise next year. The chancellor will increase the tax rate there from 9 percent to 10 percent...

See BRITAIN, Page 13

Investors Bail Out Of Olivetti

Cash Call Sends Shivers Through The Milan Market

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches MILAN — Shares of the computer maker Olivetti SpA...

Olivetti's stock was suspended from trading Monday when the rights issue, aimed at boosting growth and investment...

On Tuesday, Olivetti common shares slumped to 1,825 lire, from Friday's 2,202 lire...

The new shares are being sold at 1,000 lire apiece. Analysts said this reflected uncertainty over Olivetti's profit outlook...

Olivetti's parent company, CIR, settled at 1,050 lire, down 10 percent from Friday...

The market was further buffeted by concerns that the state industrial holding company IRI might delay privatization...

Fiat SpA's common stock fell sharply after its official closing, as investors grew nervous that the automaker would follow Olivetti's example...

See MAZDA, Page 15

Late-Braking Mazda Goes Into a Skid

By Steven Brill

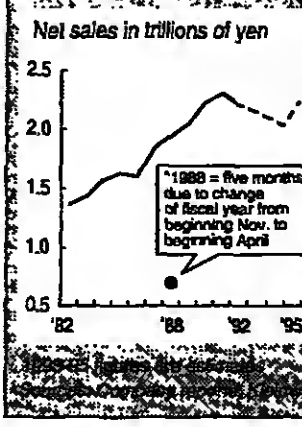
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — When Japanese car sales plunged in the bubble economy of the late 1980s...

For Mazda, even more than its rivals, the strategy seemed to be paying off. Profits jumped starting in 1989...

Yet for a company that nearly went bankrupt in the mid-1970s, when high energy prices braked demand for its gas-guzzling Wankel rotary engine...

Downshift at Mazda



Net sales in trillions of yen. Profit in billions of yen.

Japanese automaker suffering a hangover from the bubble era. Nissan, for example, has slid into loss. But few companies were as late to shift into reverse as Mazda...

See MAZDA, Page 15

It was slow to notice the impact of the bursting of Japan's bubble economy of stock and real estate speculation...

Mr. Patten on Friday granted plans to expand the electrical base for 1995 elections to Hong Kong's Legislative Council...

Analysts are watching closely to see if rattled investors will necessarily shy away from big-ticket purchases this time around...

"When things are looking especially uncertain here, people have to weigh up the cost of a new Mercedes See UNEASE, Page 15

The Uneasiness Spreads In Hong Kong Business

By Kevin Murphy

International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — Business in Hong Kong is hunkering down to ride out another round of instability...

Especially at risk are businesses sensitive to a downturn in confidence, and they are bracing themselves for a difficult few weeks.

Luxury retailers, car dealers, commercial real estate salesmen and corporate dealmakers can suffer when wait-and-see stock-market sentiment affects other major decisions.

Although the stock market rose 2.1 percent Tuesday on bargain hunting after a two-day, 8 percent slide, local investors were still jittery about China's intentions.

"The immediate question is whether China is irritated that the stock market is not trembling enough," said Clive Rigby, managing director of Lippo Securities.

"People are worried about what China may say or do next, but this is essentially a bull market because of what is going on over the border."

Hong Kong's governor, Chris Patten, said Tuesday that he still hoped to meet with Chinese officials to discuss his democratic reform proposals.

"We set out at the end of the week our position and no one, I think, has questioned its reasonableness."

An offer made in London on Monday by the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, to open talks on Hong Kong's political future went unheeded by Beijing...

International investors seeking exposure to China's booming economy have largely ignored the diplomatic fall-out that arose when Mr. Patten on Friday granted plans to expand the electrical base for 1995 elections to Hong Kong's Legislative Council...

Step drops in stock prices experienced in November and December last year, when the Hang Seng fell from a then-record high of 6,447 to 4,978 in a few days...

See UNEASE, Page 15

MEDIA MARKETS No Thrills, but Wolters Delivers Happy Endings

By Jon Henley

Special to the Herald Tribune

AMSTERDAM — "EEC Legislation" and "VAT Briefing" may not be everyone's idea of a fun read, but titles like these spell solid profit growth at Europe's largest legal publisher, Wolters Kluwer NV...

"We may not be exactly glamorous, but you can be sure of no oasty surprises from us," said Cor Brakel, an executive board member.

Wolters on Tuesday reported net earnings up 21 percent for 1992 at 258 million guilders (\$138 million), compared with 214 million guilders in 1991...

The company has targeted average annual sales growth of 7 percent from general operations through the 1990s...

Share analysts agreed that Wolters Kluwer's products are not thriller material, but said that investors whose preference lies with a well-constructed plot and a happy ending will not be disappointed.

Wolters sells virtually nothing to the general mass-market consumer. Its business is in what Mr. Brakel calls "need-to-know, not nice-to-know" information...

The company has operations in eight European countries as well as See KLUWER, Page 13

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Table with columns: Cross Rates, Other Dollar Values, Forward Rates. Includes exchange rates for various currencies.

Table with columns: Eurocurrency Deposits, Key Money Rates. Includes interest rates for various currencies and terms.

OUR PHILOSOPHY OF BANKING GOES BACK 4,000 YEARS.



It was the ancient traders who first established many of today's banking practices. They accepted funds for safekeeping. Bartered goods for services. And extended credit. It was a business based on trust, and a handshake contract was binding.

REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK (SUISSE) SA. Text describing the bank's philosophy and services.

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MARKET DIARY

Wall Street Pauses Ahead of Price Data

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks closed little changed Tuesday amid concern that Wednesday's consumer price report may reveal a resurgence of inflation.

"If the rise in consumer prices exceeds economists' forecasts, the stock and bond markets will encounter big problems," said Michael

N.Y. Stocks

Lenahan, head trader at James Cap. Economists estimate consumer prices rose 0.3 percent in February. The Dow Jones industrial average added 0.54 to close at 3,442.95.

Declining common stocks outnumbered advancing issues by a narrow margin. About 217 million shares changed hands on the Big Board.

Inflation concern resurfaced last week, when the Labor Department said prices paid by wholesalers climbed 0.4 percent in February, the highest jump in inflation at the producer level since November 1990.

If the CPI report reveals a sharper rise than expected, "I think you could see a pretty big sell-off," said Jim Benning, a trader at B.T. Brokerage.

"Concern that inflation is on the rise continues to hang over this market," said Mr. Lenahan of James Cap.

Oil stocks, followed by telephone and electric utilities, posted the big-

gest gains Tuesday. Investors, burned by the dismal performance of traditional "growth" stocks like drugs, were drawn to the high dividend yields and stability these groups offer, traders said. Oil shares also were buoyed by Britain's plan to lower production taxes would benefit companies such as British Petroleum Co., Exxon Corp., Mobil Corp. and Amerasia Hess Corp., analysts said. BP's American depositary receipts rose 1% to 52 1/2, Exxon gained 1% to 64, and Mobil advanced 1% to 69 1/2.

British plan to lower production taxes would benefit companies such as British Petroleum Co., Exxon Corp., Mobil Corp. and Amerasia Hess Corp., analysts said. BP's American depositary receipts rose 1% to 52 1/2, Exxon gained 1% to 64, and Mobil advanced 1% to 69 1/2.

Bearish earnings outlooks from Eli Lilly & Co. and Marion Merrell Dow Inc. triggered a slump in drug stocks.

Lilly dropped 2 to 48 1/2 after the pharmaceutical maker said it expects first-quarter earnings to drop to about \$1.20 to \$1.30 a share from \$1.51 a year ago. Lilly said sales of anti-infectives were hurt by a relatively mild flu season and increased competition.

Marion Merrell Dow plunged 3 1/2 to 19. The drug company expects first-quarter earnings to drop as much as 70 percent from the 62 cents a share it earned a year ago, because of its nosediving antidiabetic Soladane and weaker demand for its Nicoderm anti-smoking patch.

Rumors of Higher Yen Take Toll on Dollar

NEW YORK — Disappointing U.S. trade and housing data along with a surge in demand for the yen put pressure on the dollar on Tuesday but the markets remained cautious and edgy amid continuing swirls of rumors about a possible cut in German interest rates.

Elsewhere, the pound jumped against the dollar and the mark as

because the British budget did not include an interest-rate cut nor did it tighten fiscal policy enough to trim the large government deficit, said Lisa Finstrom, currency analyst at Lehman Brothers.

"Lamont wasn't terribly restrictive," she said. "He was obviously intent not to put the brakes on a fragile U.S. economy."

The pound climbed to \$1.4485 from \$1.4347 and to 2.4111 Deutsche marks, up more than two pence from 2.3860 DM.

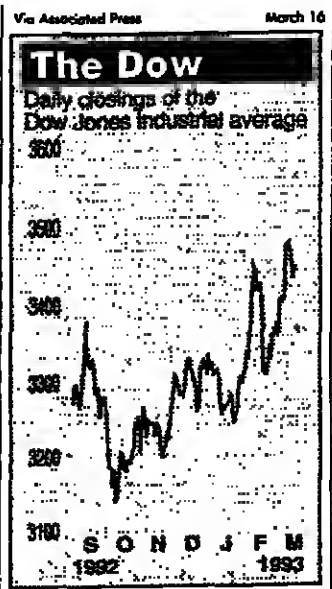
The fragility of the U.S. economy was underscored Tuesday by news that U.S. housing starts rose just 2.5 percent in February after many economists had expected a rate over 4 percent.

After stumbling in early trading, the dollar later regained its balance to finish little changed against the mark at 1.6646 DM, little changed from 1.6622 DM on Monday.

Traders doubted that the dollar would move much from current levels before the Bundesbank council meets Thursday to review monetary policy.

The dollar closed at 1.5255 Swiss francs, up from 1.5227 francs, and at 5.6555 French francs, down from 5.6335 francs.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, UPI)



1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993

NYSE Most Actives

Table listing NYSE Most Actives with columns for Volume, High, Low, Last, and Change. Includes symbols like EIM, AIG, and various stock tickers.

AMEX Most Actives

Table listing AMEX Most Actives with columns for Volume, High, Low, Last, and Change. Includes symbols like SMC, ICF, and various stock tickers.

NYSE Diary

Table listing NYSE Diary with columns for Class, Prev., and Change. Includes categories like Advanced, Declined, and Unchanged.

Amex Diary

Table listing Amex Diary with columns for Class, Prev., and Change. Includes categories like Advanced, Declined, and Unchanged.

NASDAQ Diary

Table listing NASDAQ Diary with columns for Class, Prev., and Change. Includes categories like Advanced, Declined, and Unchanged.

Dow Jones Averages

Table showing Dow Jones Averages with columns for Open, High, Low, Last, and Change. Includes Industrial, Chemical, and Finance averages.

Standard & Poor's Indexes

Table showing Standard & Poor's Indexes with columns for High, Low, Close, and Change. Includes Industrial, Chemical, and Finance indexes.

NYSE Indexes

Table showing NYSE Indexes with columns for High, Low, Close, and Change. Includes Composite, Industrial, and Utilities indexes.

NASDAQ Indexes

Table showing NASDAQ Indexes with columns for High, Low, Close, and Change. Includes Composite, Industrial, and Utilities indexes.

AMEX Stock Index

Table showing AMEX Stock Index with columns for High, Low, Close, and Change.

Dow Jones Bond Averages

Table showing Dow Jones Bond Averages with columns for High, Low, Close, and Change. Includes 20 Bonds, 10 Industrials, and 10 Financials.

Market Sales

Table showing Market Sales with columns for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ volume and value.

N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading

Table showing N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading with columns for Buy, Sell, and Short.

S&P 100 Index Options

Table showing S&P 100 Index Options with columns for Strike, Bid, Ask, and Last.

NYSE Diary

Table showing NYSE Diary with columns for Class, Prev., and Change.

Amex Diary

Table showing Amex Diary with columns for Class, Prev., and Change.

NASDAQ Diary

Table showing NASDAQ Diary with columns for Class, Prev., and Change.

EUROPEAN FUTURES

Table showing European Futures with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Food

Table showing Food futures with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Metals

Table showing Metals futures with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Stock Indexes

Table showing Stock Indexes with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Spot Commodities

Table showing Spot Commodities with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Dividends

Table showing Dividends with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Financial

Table showing Financial futures with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

U.S. FUTURES

Table showing U.S. Futures with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Grains

Table showing Grains futures with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

Oil

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Metals

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Livestock

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Food

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Financial

Table showing Financial futures with columns for Class, High, Low, Prev., and Close.

U.S. / AT THE CLOSE

\$45 Billion Urged for Thrifts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen asked Congress on Tuesday for \$45 billion to finish the cleanup of insolvent savings institutions and warned that the United States would pay a far greater price if the money were not provided.

"I know... it is a tough vote," Mr. Bentsen told the House Banking Committee. "But I also know that this is a vote for depositors, for the safety of our financial institutions, and that if we fail to meet this obligation, we will pay a far greater price and deservingly so."

The \$45 billion would be split. The Resolution Trust Corp. would get \$28 billion to protect depositors in the 83 failed institutions operating under its direction and at up to 45 more S&Ls that were expected to fail by Sept. 30. The rest of the money, \$17 billion, would go to a new insurance fund, the Savings Association Insurance Fund, which would handle future failures. It would replace the Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corp., which in effect went bankrupt in 1989.

The White House said the \$45 billion represented an \$11 billion increase beyond the amount President Bill Clinton proposed in his economic package.

Wang Files a Reorganization Plan

BOSTON (Bloomberg) — Wang Laboratories Inc. on Tuesday filed a reorganization plan in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and its co-president, Donald P. Casey, said the former minicomputer maker could be profitable again by concentrating on software instead of hardware.

Mr. Casey predicted the company would show a profit in financial 1994, starting July 1, after taking several steps to revamp operations. Wang will sell most of its factory space, including a Taiwan facility and a printed circuit-board plant in Methuen, Massachusetts. The company will retain minority stakes in some of the factories, which will be sold to local partners, Mr. Casey said.

As a result, Wang will fire another 3,000 employees from its payroll of about 9,300 over the next few weeks.

General Mills Lifts Earnings by 7%

MINNEAPOLIS (UPI) — General Mills Inc. reported Monday earnings of \$140.9 million, or 86 cents a share, for its third quarter ended Feb. 28 — up nearly 7 percent compared with \$132.1 million, or 80 cents a share, in the year-ago period.

Earnings for the quarter included a charge equivalent to 5 cents a share to cover costs for restructuring Snack Ventures Europe, a joint venture with PepsiCo Foods International that became operational last July. Revenue for the latest quarter rose to \$2.01 billion, from \$1.87 billion in the year-ago period, which ended Feb. 23, 1992.

Marion Merrell Expects Weak Quarter

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Marion Merrell Dow on Tuesday alerted investors that its first-quarter results would be disappointing. Analysts had been expecting the company to earn 62 cents a share in the quarter ending March 31. But the company said per-share profit could be as much as 70 percent lower.

Fred Lyons Jr., president and chief executive, broke from a long-standing policy of not issuing performance projections because the company wanted to "clarify what our preliminary results are telling us."

U.S. Study Urges Exporter Subsidies

WASHINGTON (AP) — An advisory commission on competitiveness recommended Tuesday a sharp increase in subsidies to U.S. exporters at a time of mounting tensions between Washington and its European trading partners.

In a report to President Bill Clinton and Congress, the Competitiveness Policy Council said the Export-Import Bank should nearly double its annual credits, to \$20 billion.

"The United States must push hard — through unilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations — to open foreign markets to American products," the report said.

U.S. / AT THE CLOSE

NYSE

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Speculators Target the Franc Focus Is on Election, Bundesbank's Intentions

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches PARIS — The Bank of France acted to support the franc against the Deutsche mark on Tuesday for the second day running, currency dealers said, as speculative selling continued ahead of the French elections and the Bundesbank council meeting.

The next government may be tempted to let the currency float so that it can cut interest rates and spur economic growth. The first round of the election is this Sunday.

French Companies See No Imminent Recovery

PARIS — Industrial production generally stagnated in February and companies see no early recovery, the Bank of France said Tuesday.

Expectations for the Bundesbank to cut its official Lombard and discount rates have been dampened by the statement Monday by its president, Helmut Schlesinger, that inflation at 4 percent was still running too high.

It was now time for British exporters aided by a devalued pound and thus lower costs to seize their opportunities in foreign markets, Mr. Lamont urged.

Airtours Bid for Rival Is Scuppered by Cook

LONDON — Airtours PLC said Tuesday that its £265 million (£382 million) bid to take over a rival travel company, Owners Abroad Group PLC, had failed. It blamed the competing bid launched last week by Thomas Cook.

Monetary Expansion Hits Ruble

MOSCOW — The ruble slipped to a new low on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange on Tuesday, sliding to 662 rubles per dollar from the previous record of 653.

Investor's Europe. Frankfurt DAX, London FTSE 100 Index, Paris CAC 40. Includes a line graph showing index trends from 1982 to 1993.

Last Springtime Run At the British Budget

LONDON — For many economists, the most important and undoubtedly the most appealing thing about Tuesday's official unveiling of the budget is that it will never happen again.

BRITAIN: A 'Budget for Jobs'

(Continued from first finance page) and net the Treasury £1.8 billion annually in the process.

EC Accepts Offer On Korean Chips

BRUSSELS — European semiconductor manufacturers said Tuesday the price of their products would not increase following the minimum price undertaken by South Korean makers announced by the EC Commission.

Very briefly:

- Dessault Electronique SA said it had a net loss of 226 million francs (\$40.4 million) in 1992, compared with a profit of 64 million francs in 1991.

ECCENTRIC: The Incredible Case of the Disappearing Spanish Engineer

(Continued from page 1) broad re-examination of operations at GM, an automaker that still makes about 70 percent of its parts.

KLUWER: Few Thrills, Big Gains

(Continued from first finance page) as the United States and is still pursuing an aggressive but narrowly targeted takeover campaign.

NYSE Tuesday's Closing. Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Includes sections for NYSE High-Lows and AMEX High-Lows.

Escorts & Guides. International Classified. Includes sections for Belle Epoch, Mercedes, AristoCats, Chelsea Escort Service, and others.

INTERNATIONAL BOND TRUST. Dividend Announcement. 2, boulevard Royal, L-2953 Luxembourg. Shares will be traded ex-dividend on March 17, 1993.

Premium offices and services at a prestigious address. Modern fully equipped and serviced offices available on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Includes contact information for various cities.



AMEX Tuesday's Closing Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

Table with columns: 12 Month High/Low, Div, Yld, PE, % Chg, High/Low/Last/Chg. Lists various stocks and their performance.

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Advertisement for 'The Russian leadership crisis', 'EC-US trade tensions', 'Terrorism in New York...', and 'Continued chaos in Bosnia...'. Includes a coupon for a 48% discount on the newsstand price and a form to subscribe to the International Herald Tribune.

Advertisement for IASDA (International Association of Secretaries and Administrators) featuring a briefcase and promotional text.



# Japan's Surplus Edges Higher Growth Rate Slackens as Exports Decline

**Agence France-Press**  
**TOKYO**—Japan's trade surplus grew at the slowest pace in almost one-and-a-half years in February, when 29 months of uninterrupted export gains came to an end, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.  
 The decline in exports, the first since May 1990, mainly reflected a slump in shipments to Europe—notably Germany, Britain and France—although exports to other major markets such as South Korea and Canada were also down. The overall surplus grew by 3.7 percent from a year earlier, to \$10.6 billion, and was up from \$5.3 billion in January. The increase marked two years and two months of uninterrupted growth and propelled the imbalance in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year to a record of almost \$99 billion.  
 Exports fell by 0.5 percent to less than \$28 billion, while imports fell by 2.8 percent to \$17.4 billion. The decline in imports reflected the Japanese recession and, to some extent, a reduction of purchases of beef before a further reduction in tariffs in April, a Finance Ministry official said.  
 Japan's trade surplus with the European Community narrowed by 18.7 percent to \$2.7 billion, as exports dropped 14.4 percent to \$4.9 billion. Imports from Europe fell by 8.2 percent to \$2.2 billion.  
 Japan's trade surplus with the United States, its biggest trading partner, grew by 19.2 percent to \$4.4 billion during the month.

## Lotte to Import Gum

**Lotte Corp.**, a major Japanese candy maker, has begun marketing chewing gum produced at its U.S. subsidiary to cope with the recent appreciation of the yen, United Press International quoted a company official as saying Tuesday.  
 The Japanese currency has gained against the dollar so rapidly that it is cheaper for Lotte to import its U.S.-made products rather than to manufacture them in Japan, the official said.

# Beijing Still Can't Get a Handle On Its Runaway Budget Deficit

**BEIJING**—China's finance minister warned Tuesday of "great financial difficulties" as he announced another large budget deficit this year, bloated by subsidies to state industry and runaway investment.  
 Liu Zhongli told the legislature that the total deficit for 1993 was forecast at \$4.4 billion yuan (\$14.8 billion), compared with a deficit of \$0.49 billion yuan in 1992.  
 The main problem is that revenues have failed to keep pace with an explosive increase in spending on capital construction that fueled economic growth of 12.8 percent last year.  
 At the same time, Beijing has been impoverished by the crumbling of state industry, which once accounted for almost all of China's industrial production but whose share has now dropped to 55 percent. Central government relies on state enterprises for about 70 percent of its revenue.  
 "Certain departments and localities did too many things and launched too many projects without taking into consideration their ability and financial capacity," Mr. Liu said.  
 He complained of an overstuffed bureaucracy, local authorities handing out too many tax breaks to industry and lax management that led to waste.  
 Total revenue for 1993 is forecast at 452.23 billion yuan, up 8 percent from 1992. Expenditures are put at 472.737 billion yuan, up 6.8 percent.  
 This will produce a shortfall of 20.5 billion yuan, compared with 23.74 billion yuan in 1992. However, domestic bonds worth 37 billion yuan and 26.9 billion yuan foreign debt will swell that total. Such debts last year amounted to 66.74 billion yuan.  
 Mr. Liu offered some hope for collapsing state industries, saying a campaign to shake up the socialist sector with capitalist-style methods had begun to show results. He said there was an overall reduction of 4.2 percentage points in the losses of government enterprises in 1992.  
 Total industrial subsidies this year are forecast at 38.85 billion yuan compared with 44.57 billion yuan last year.  
 However, this is only a fraction of the total spent by central government to keep state industry afloat. It mainly covers the cost of compensating energy producers for being forced to sell at artificially low prices.  
 Huge bank loans that are unlikely ever to be repaid bail out unprofitable industrial companies.

Investor's Asia				
Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng		8,880.04	5,854.51	+2.14
Singapore Straits Times		1,648.35	1,630.81	+1.14
Sydney All Ordinaries		1,659.90	1,626.40	+2.02
Tokyo Nikkei 225		17,968.30	18,066.18	-0.65
Kuala Lumpur Composite		637.79	634.81	+0.47
Bangkok SET		905.12	905.51	-0.04
Seoul Composite Stock		637.57	645.73	-1.22
Taipei Weighted Price		4,489.59	4,507.00	-0.38
Manila Composite		1,475.76	1,471.85	+0.28
Jakarta Stock Index		311.09	311.70	-0.20
New Zealand NZSE-40		1,584.69	1,567.04	+1.13
Bombay National Index		1,101.60	1,096.89	+1.35

# County NatWest Sells Tokyo Exchange Seat

**TOKYO**—Alkane Securities Co. has bought County NatWest Securities Japan Ltd.'s seat on the Tokyo Stock Exchange for 943 million yen (\$7.9 million), exchange officials said Tuesday.  
 County NatWest Japan, a unit of National Westminster Bank PLC, in December became the first foreign member of the Tokyo exchange to say it would give up its seat. Business on the exchange has slumped over the past two years with the bursting of Japan's "bubble economy" of real estate and stock speculation.  
 County NatWest paid 963 million yen for the seat in May 1988. In addition to the payment to County NatWest, Alkane will pay 157 million yen to the exchange for deposit and admission fees. Alkane, a member of the Osaka Securities Exchange, is 90 percent owned by Orix Corp., Japan's largest leasing company.

# East Japan Railway Likely To Go Public This Summer

**TOKYO**—Securities analysts said Tuesday they expected the planned initial public offering of stock in East Japan Railway Co. to go ahead this summer at a price between 200,000 yen (\$1,690) and 2 million yen per share.  
 East Japan Railway is expected to be the first of the state-owned Japanese railway companies, which were made into corporations in the mid-1980s, to be floated publicly.  
 First meetings with securities analysts, held Monday, reinforced the likelihood that the company would complete its awaited listing later in the year, officials said.  
 It operates the network in the central Tokyo area, extending through the northern portion of the main Japanese island of Honshu.  
 Central Japan Railway, which primarily operates the bullet-train service between Tokyo and Osaka,

# Pepsi Signs Up for Return to Vietnam

**BANGKOK**—Pepsi-Cola Co. signed documents Tuesday committing it to become a joint-venture partner in a Vietnamese bottling operation after the U.S. economic embargo is completely lifted, a Pepsi spokesman said. This would make it the first major U.S. company to publicly declare its return to Vietnam.  
 The move should give Pepsi an important lead in Vietnam's soft-drink market, which is expected to grow rapidly with Vietnam's 68 million people.  
 A commitment letter says Pepsi will invest \$10 million—\$5 million in equity, \$2 million for the first year's marketing, with the balance for materials and training—once the embargo is completely lifted, according to Barry J. Shea, president of Pepsi-Cola International, South-

east Asia region, who signed on the company's behalf in a ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City.  
 Pepsi has already persuaded the current Miss Vietnam, a 17-year-old musician and actress, Ha Kien Anh, to appear in television commercials for Vietnamese channels.  
 With these and other preparations, Pepsi could be rolling off the bottling lines in two weeks, when the embargo is expected to be completely lifted, according to Mr. Shea.  
 Pepsi's partner, International Beverage Co., is itself a joint venture between the Macomdry Group of Singapore investors and Saigon Co., made up of three local Ho Chi Minh City government ventures, including two bottling interests.  
 IBC this week begins production of a range of carbonated drinks from Cadbury Schweppes, the British beverage company, which ranks third in the world.

IBC has the country's most modern facilities, which will have a capacity of 30 million cases when all four of its bottling lines are completed. That is roughly the current total national demand for soft drinks, but demand is expected to more than double in the two years following lifting of the embargo, before settling down to an expected 10 percent to 15 percent annual growth rate for the next decade.  
 Pepsi's announcement comes just a month after Coca-Cola said it had signed a memo of understanding with two government companies, Vietnam National Foodstuffs Import & Export Corp. and the Chuong Duong Beverage Factory, to continue discussions that "could lead to the eventual establishment of bottling operations."  
 Vietnam National Foodstuffs has an extensive distribution network but the Chuong Duong plant needs substantial upgrading.

# MAZDA: Braking Late, Carmaker Can't Avoid a Skid UNEASE: Disquiet Spreads in Hong Kong Business

**(Continued from first finance page)**  
 Honda's Acura brands that are competing with European makes such as BMW and Mercedes-Benz. This niche has become key for Japanese makers as political pressures reduce the number of exports to the United States. Mazda now will probably have to sell its high-end cars through its existing North American dealer network.  
 Another thump came earlier this month, when the company announced that it had dropped a plan to produce cars in Europe with Ford Motor Co.  
 That decision, ending nearly four years of study, effectively means that for years, Mazda will be unable to boost its share in the European Community, the world's largest car market, to which Japanese car exports are controlled through 1999.  
 Mazda, like other Japanese makers, plans to cut the number of

model variations it sells as well as the number of parts it uses through greater standardization. It will also pare development costs through swaps with domestic makers.  
 For example, it is discussing a plan to buy vans from Nissan for sale under its own name and sell the No. 2 Japanese carmaker small pickup trucks likewise. It is considering buying diesel engines for a new small-sized passenger car from Isuzu Motors Ltd., instead of building its own.

**(Continued from first finance page)**  
 against the cost of getting a Canadian passport if they haven't already got one," said Tim Storey, an analyst with the H.G. Asia brokerage.  
 Mainland Chinese real estate investors, who pushed Hong Kong commercial property to new heights in 1992, have generally gone quiet since the Sino-British dispute escalated in November 1992.  
 "Any positive news would be greeted with a resurgence in market activity in the commercial sector," said Nicholas Brooke of the real estate group Brooke Hillier Parker.  
 Apart from large investors issuing covered warrants on blue-chip stocks and deals in which mainland Chinese groups have bought into Hong Kong listed public companies, the colony's traditionally active corporate dealmakers have also been quieter than usual.  
 Mr. Patten's refusal to be drawn on when he would actually present his controversial proposals in the

Legislative Council means Hong Kong's political situation could be in limbo for several weeks, if not months.  
 "We think this, or something like it, will be going on for some time to come," said a senior executive at one of Hong Kong's leading merchant banks. "It is not preferential to wait if it is a solid, long-term move."  
 "Despite all the megaphone politics, the stock market is showing resolution," he said.

# NASDAQ

**Tuesday's Prices**  
 NASDAQ prices as of 4 p.m. New York time. This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

12 Month High	Low	Div	Yld	PE	12 Month High	Low	Div	Yld	PE	12 Month High	Low	Div	Yld	PE	12 Month High	Low	Div	Yld	PE
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# SPORTS BASEBALL

## Jackson Passes Test: Slide on Artificial Hip

*The Associated Press*

It was another big day for players making difficult comebacks.

Bo Jackson passed another major test Monday for the Chicago White Sox when he landed on his artificial left hip while scoring a run in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Bradenton, Florida.

In Fort Myers, Florida, Fernando Valenzuela and Bert Blyleven continued their comebacks with mixed results: good for Valenzuela, bad for Blyleven.

With the bases loaded and none out in the sixth inning, Ron Karkovics led off and Jackson tagged at third, then had to slide to beat the throw by Orlando Merced.

"I wanted to slide on my right side, but I just instinctively slid on the left side," Jackson said. "Once I got running, everything went out the window. Every day, I'm getting better."

He played six innings at first base and was 2 for 3 with a walk. He also made a diving catch of Jay Bell's liner in the fifth. He is batting .333, with eight hits in 24 at-bats, this spring.

The White Sox will decide by March 25 if they want to keep Jackson on the roster.

Valenzuela, whose major league career appeared to be over after he was cut during a five-month period in 1991 by the Los Angeles Dodgers, then the California Angels, threw three scoreless innings in the Baltimore Orioles' 6-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

"My velocity was a lot better, and I had good rotation on the curveball," said Valenzuela, "but my screwball stayed up a little bit. It's hard to have everything good at the same time."

Blyleven's string of six consecutive scoreless innings came to an end when he gave up five second-inning runs.

"Other than that one inning I've been consistent," Blyleven, 41, said. "My arm feels fine. Everybody is pitching well."

Valenzuela, 32, is competing with Mark Williamson, Anthony Telford, John O'Donoghue,

and non-roster invitees Mike Cook, Steve Searcy, Wayne Edwards and Jamie Moyer for the Orioles' fifth starter role.

In his second appearance since signing a Class AAA contract Feb. 28, Valenzuela allowed one hit and one walk and never was seriously threatened.

In his first game, he pitched two scoreless innings last Thursday against Toronto. Valenzuela threw 39 pitches against the Blue Jays, 40 against the Twins, and the Orioles' manager, Johnny Oates, wants like him to throw 50 pitches in his next outing Friday against Philadelphia.

Mike Felder, who was supposed to be Seattle's starting left fielder and leadoff hitter this season, suffered a broken right hand in an exhibition game and will be out 6 to 8 weeks, the Mariners said Tuesday in Peoria, Arizona.

Signed as a free agent in November after two seasons with the San Francisco Giants, Felder was injured Monday while sliding into second base in the third inning in an 8-3 loss to the Giants. His hand hit the second-baseman's foot.

Felder did not know he had broken his hand. He stayed in the game and batted twice after the injury. X-rays Monday night revealed the fracture.

Although there is no major league commissioner, there is a commissioner's office, and it confirmed Tuesday that the Cincinnati Reds' mascot has been banned from the field. This less than two months after Marge Schott, the Reds' owner, was herself banned for making racial and ethnic slurs.

"The executive council did not think it was appropriate," said Rich Levin, who is still spokesman for the commissioner even though there isn't one. "There were numerous complaints from the players about dogs running around on the field."

Dogs being Schottzie 02.



Fernando Valenzuela pitched three scoreless innings for the Orioles.

## An Up Beat Down Under

*International Herald Tribune*

**SYDNEY** — After two weeks in Australia, we know this to be a land still discovering itself. It has re-elected a government the polls said was doomed, it is on course to divorce itself from the Queen of England and, as host to the soccer's World Youth Championship, it is catching on fast.

Reason No. 1 is that the Socceros, a collection of possibly every ethnic minority in this cosmopolitan country, continue winning. Reason 2, transcending the simplistic notion of sport, is the way Australians have responded to the spontaneous joy of Ghana's team.

The Australian newspaper carried a wonderful photograph Monday of hands stretching out to greet Ghanaians celebrating a 3-0 quarterfinal victory over Russia.

With respect to the Australian fans, not all have much feeling toward the roundball game. Australian rules, or rugby league, is more traditional here.

Yet when black hands reached out, white hands reached back in acclaim of an African team visibly excited by its play. The Ghanaians, some apparently scarcely out of adolescence, wore the widest grins.

It is their imagination, their innocence, that endears them to people. They simply play soccer as it was intended, as a game. Whether it takes Ghana's team all the way is another matter, for it faces England in Sydney in Wednesday's semifinal, and England is as mature, hard and professional as you get in under-20 championships.

Before we are drawn down the road of innocence versus pragmatism, reflect once more on that image of Australia reaching out. The same newspaper carried a report on violence in aboriginal homes, with uneasy tones suggesting that the nation has never settled its conscience over the native population.

That is the point of sport. A visiting team displaying inhibition captures the heart even if only for a couple of nights.

I suggest that Ghana is not even the best, or even most bewitching, team here. To my biased eye, Brazil is that once again. But to watch Ghana play, as to have seen Cameroon at the 1990 World Cup, is to share the conviction that something new, something unknown — and largely uncontaminated by coaching — is afoot.

Let us put names and faces to that. There is the well known Nii Lamptey, who, give or take a lot of guesswork, was 15 when some agent smuggled him out of Ghana to play for Anderlecht in Belgium's first division.

He looked then, looks now, to be a peard of his continent, a boy in a man's body. But even he can not swear to a specific age, for Ghana is not strong on birth documentation.

Perhaps, despite the nagging doubts everywhere that countries cheat on age limits to win youth tournaments, it scarcely matters. If Nii Ordanley Lamptey is 18 or 28 he is a remarkable amalgam of speed, touch, balance and instinctive movement.

Here he ranks almost as a veteran. The same record keeper put Osei Knifour, Mohammed Gargo and Emmanuel Duah, three of the sorcerer's apprentices, at just 16 years of age.

**THEY TOO, HAVE** been plucked from Africa. A agent from Rome signed them, and others, as precocious investments of Torino, a new slave trade in minors that will need only one to grow into a world great to pay back the bank.

The dream final most neutrals await here is Ghana versus Brazil on Saturday. I dream of it, too. It would deprive my country of its second world finale in history, but the impact of a true final between teams that let football flow from the soul is the stuff of romance.

England will try to deny that. Its team looks out of place in a youth tournament because it carries the habits of men.

So far, in matches against South Korea (arguably the finest Asian side yet seen), against Turkey, the United States and Mexico, England has ground down opponents by scoring just three goals, conceding one (and that an own goal), and reaching the semifinal after a penalty shootout.

Be fair, the English youths commit themselves like soldiers to the task. They play the dikratt: don't lose. They work and run and devote opponents of opportunities. They score all their goals from set piece plays — two from long throw-ins, the third from a corner kick. And in alien heat, on bone hard playing



Rob Hughes is on the staff of The Times.

fields, they adapt in the situation as Scrooge did to Christmas.

They are the products of their time, of the English league structure. And they are so disciplined that when Paul McCartney put on a concert at Melbourne Cricket Ground opposite their hotel, why, the English lads said, no, they could not accept free tickets, their schedule read early to bed to prepare for the following night's match against Turkey.

Good luck to them, though I know plenty of sons (fathers too) who could have used those tickets for a night of musical relief.

Australia has left Melbourne. Australia fills the space, promising to shut down Brazil's team of starlets with just as much toil and athletic energy as England.

Australia, the soccer team as well as the nation, is growing before our eyes. Its coach, Les Scheinffing, happens to be German by birth, but he warns the Brazilian peacocks: "My boys never give up. They play for their country. They will not get stage fright like the Americans did in the last match against Brazil. We know the Brazilians, and we are equal to them."

That depends on his definition of equal. The word is that Scheinffing intends to sacrifice the positive mid-field aggression of Anthony Carbone to shake the playmaking of Brazil's Adriano, the most complete player of this tournament.

Perspiration versus inspiration. I don't know it, for you deploy what strengths you have. But I do shudder when I consider the price Australia's captain, Kevin Muscat, is willing to pay for glory.

In the last match, against Uruguay, he scratched a thigh so badly the infection spread to his groin. During the same 90 minutes, he was slightly stunned by a blow to the head. According to the team physician, Muscat's jaw was dislocated and had to be tugged back into place. "I gave Kevin every penicillin under the sun to help him continue on it there," added the doctor.

And this is a youth event? Heaven help the players, and their minders, when they grow up.

Rob Hughes is on the staff of The Times.

## UEFA to Discuss New Tournament

*Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches*

UEFA's members will meet Thursday to discuss the proposal of federation's president, Lennart Johansson, to merge the European Champions' Cup and UEFA Cup to create a European League of Champions' tournament.

Europe's governing body of soccer said its competitions committee, meeting in Geneva, will examine the implications of such a change, and that Johansson's plan will be put to UEFA's executive committee in Bern on April 21. If accepted, the new competition could be in place by the 1994-95 season.

The commission will also consider the venues for this year's major European club finale, The Champions' Cup final is to be played May 26 and the Cup Winners' Cup on May 12.

PARIS, March 16 (AFP) — AC Milan said it will without its Dutch star, Rudi Gullit, for Wednesday's Champions' League match against FC Porto as the Italian team's injury list continued to grow.

Gullit, the inspiration behind AC Milan's European Cup triumphs in 1989 and 1990, was thought to have recovered from a thigh injury. But officials said Tuesday that the strain was still a problem, and that Dejan Savicevic of Montenegro would also not start the match because of a throat infection.

The referees of Spain's first and second divisions have called a strike for next weekend to protest recent accusations of incompetence and partiality that have been made by players, coaches and executives of major clubs.

A spokesman for the national federation said the referees' action was exaggerated and said the league's weekend matches would be played even if referees had to be brought up from the third division or brought in from abroad.

The World Cup match between Egypt and Zaire, being replayed because of an unruly crowd at the original match in Cairo, will be contested at Lyon, France, on April 14, French soccer officials said.

FIFA had ordered the match to be played in France on March 28, but Egypt protested that this conflicted with the Muslim festival of Eid-al-Fitr. (AFP, Reuters)

## A Very French Cyclist Riding a Very Ex-Pat Road

*By Samuel Abt*  
*International Herald Tribune*

**FONTENAY-SOUS-BOIS, France** — Gérard Rué is spending another bicycle season far from France. He frowns at the reminder. First Switzerland, now Spain. "It seems like a nice country," he said, "but of course I don't know much about Spain yet. It's only been a month or so."

He was more decisive about Switzerland, where he spent a year as a rider for the Helvetia team.

"It wasn't easy to get along with the Germans," he said, declining to elaborate. When he left Helvetia after the 1991 season, he complained that a French rider — this French rider, in any case — found it difficult in a country where the food, language and customs were not French.

Everything was French with the Castorama team, which Rué rejoined. Castorama, sponsored then by Systeme U, was his team from his professional debut in 1987 until he went to Switzerland in 1991. Now ranked 51st among the world's 800 professionals, Rué had productive years with the French team but once as good as that season with Helvetia: sixth place in Milan-San Remo, second place in the Critérium International, third place in the French championship, 21st place in the world championship and a splendid 10th place in the Tour de France.

Still, it was Switzerland.

Rué is very French, he conceded. He was born in Brittany 28 years ago this July and likes everything about France and being French.

"Not quite everything. He frowned again, his eyebrows arching, his long chin jutting.

He had just been asked about the bicycle race that forced him once more into exile. That was the national championship in June, a race in which Rué saw a chance to become as French as a racer can be: a champion, the wearer of a jersey slashed with the blue, white and red of the French flag.

"The French jersey is a beautiful one to wear," he said. "Quite a distinction." His voice grew deep and lively. "I think that for any professional racer, the jersey of a national champion is most important."

The thought made him sit straighter. Then he rubbed his thumb against his first two fingers. "That too," he said.

Money, glory, the tricolor jersey, a career in France — Rué came within 8 kilometers (5 miles) of them all in the French championship. Half a lap from the finish line, he was off alone, 35 seconds ahead of the pack and feeling strong, when teammate Luc Leblanc led a charge to overtake him. Setting the pace for a handful of rivals, Leblanc soared by the astonished Rué. So did those who traveled in Leblanc's slipstream. Rué finally finished seventh, 40 seconds behind Leblanc, the winner.

A rule of the sport is that teammates do not attack each other; if a rider is alone at the front of the field, a teammate blocks for him, trying to slow rivals, not speed them along.

"If Leblanc hadn't attacked, Rué would have won," said Laurent Figaro of the rival Gatorade team. "You don't do that when you have a man ahead. It's a little disgusting."

Leblanc was unapologetic. "I'm sure Gérard understands," he said after climbing down from the victory podium and embracing his mother. "We were both strong but that's the way races go. Too bad there's just one jersey."

Stopping away from the finish, Rué was furious. "With a lead of 35 seconds and half a lap to go, I would have won."

"I deserved better. I don't know what anybody else thinks of his victory but for me, it's Luc's victory, not the team's."

Later, Leblanc was asked if he thought he and Rué could continue to work together on the Castorama team. Oh sure, he answered, not to worry.

"I know what he'll be going through in the next few hours. You think I've never been disappointed in a race myself. I'm disappointed for him. But only the jersey counts and I've wanted this jersey so much for so long, I would have gone to the ends of the earth to win it."

Raymond Poulidor, the French bicycling favorite a quarter of a century ago, has long known the 26-year-old Leblanc and is fond of him. Nevertheless, Poulidor sums him up this way: "Luc's a kid. A nice kid, but a kid." He spoke after the French championship but before the world championships in Spain, where Leblanc defied team strategy by attacking alone near the finish, pulling rivals with him, while the French were attempting to keep the leaders together and set up a sprint finish for another rider.

Rué was on that team, too. By then he had announced that he could not stay with Castorama another season.

Still bitter? Rué was asked the other day in Fontenay-sous-Bois, a Paris suburb, where he was awaiting the start of the Paris-Nice race.

"Oh yes," he replied. "It's a bad memory, the worst I have."

But there is a bright side, he continued. Now in Spain he rides for the Banesto team, the top-ranked one in the sport, which is led by Miguel Indurain, winner of the last two Tours de France and the last Giro d'Italia.

"Banesto, we're a little like a family. With Castorama it was good times too, but..."

"I had four years with Castorama and they were good years. And then the last year wasn't so good. After the championship, I had to get out."

He would not say more about Leblanc or the race, preferring to talk about the present and future.

With Banesto, Rué's obligations are clear. "In the Giro and Tour de France, I'll ride for Indurain, but in the classics I'll be on my own. I hope to do something there. And then, of course, there is the French championship again." A final flourish.

Now it was time for Rué to go. "Au revoir," he said. Then, with a smile, he acknowledged the response: "Adios."

### DENNIS THE MENACE



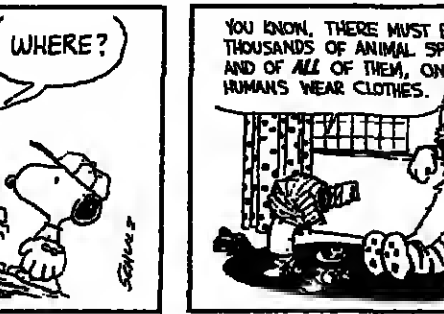
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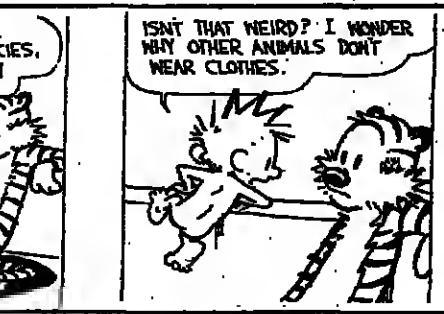
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



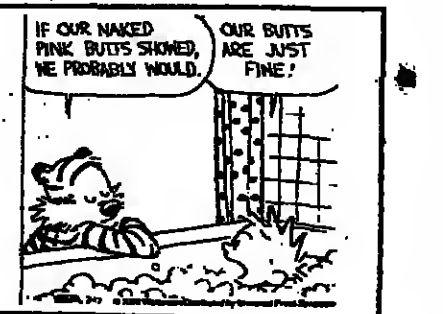
### WIZARD of ID



### REX MORGAN



### GARFIELD



**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four American words to make four ordinary words.

SUMOY

LAURR

MINGOH

COTESK

Put answer here: A

### BLONDIE



### BEETLE BAILEY



### DOONESBURY



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OBSERVER

Convenience Banking

Personal News Item: The bank announces new charges of \$72 a year for checking-account "maintenance," plus 15 cents for each check drawn, plus 8 cents for each check deposited. For now, customers may continue to deposit cash without being charged.

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Dried tears were clearly evident on my bank statement. I was saddened to think of my banker weeping. He had been a fine banker in the old days. I shall never forget the day in 1986 when he did his utmost to lend me \$8 million.

Chased me all the way to the bank door, he did. Waving papers at me. Shouting, "Take it, take it! There's plenty more where this comes from!" I refused. I'd based my entire life on three great principles, one of which was to live so that I should never need \$8 million. As a result, I was worth little more than a pittance and reminded my banker of the fact, hoping to persuade him it would be madness to lend me \$8 million. It didn't. "It's only money," he explained.

"No it's not," I protested. "It's a promise by a man with only a pittance to pay \$8 million plus interest, starting the instant those papers are signed." "Not if you skip to Brazil," he said.

He was a nice banker. He could have easily pinned me to the bank floor and lent me the \$8 million. He didn't do that, though. He let me off without a loan.

The tears stains on the bank statement made me want to repay his kindness. To the bank I went, saying, "I want to see my banker, so I can buck him up."

A Convenience Person stopped

Paris Opéra Embezzlement

PARIS — Six million francs (about \$1.05 million) has disappeared from the Paris Opéra. Officials are investigating on the assumption the theft was an inside job carried out over a period of six months, a spokeswoman said. The overall budget of the Paris Opéra — including the Palais Garnier, now a showcase for dance, and the Bastille Opéra — was 781 million francs in 1992.

me at the door. "What is a Convenience Person?" I wanted to know, not having previously heard of Convenience Persons, much less encountering them at bank doors.

"A Convenience Person is a person posted at this door for your convenience," she said, adding that for the convenience of bucking up my banker I would have to pay 33 cents. I knew the bank was socking customers with new charges to recover losses on its \$8 million loans, so I naturally expected a charge for the right to buck up my banker, but I was amazed they would let me do it for a mere 33 cents.

My banker didn't recognize me. I tried to remind him who I was. "You're telling me you refused to take \$8 million and skip to Brazil?" he said. "Incredible!" Then, "That gives me a great idea! Starting next month customers too dim to skip to Brazil will get socked with a new failure-to-skip charge."

It was wonderful to see him smile. "You're cool, thinking big enough," I said. "Why are you paying 2 percent interest on deposits? Instead of paying the customers 2 percent you ought to be charging them 2 percent for letting their money use your bank."

He seemed doubtful. While the customers whined about receiving only 2 percent interest, making them pay 2 percent interest might start them complaining that 2 percent was an outrageously high rate to pay for just having their money comfortably housed.

"Of course it is," I said, "and you must make them see that their money is not being comfortably housed like a bunch of spoiled, idle college kids. You must make people see that their money is being put to good, honest, profitable work. People will love the idea of hard-working money. Charge them 2 percent for the right to come to the bank and watch their money do work."

"The money doesn't work at the bank," said the banker. "It goes out to work."

"All the better," I said. "You can make customers pay a homecoming charge to visit the bank every evening and enjoy the satisfying spectacle of seeing their money trudge home after a hard day of toil."

New York Times Service

Creative Disorder At Bonn's Opera

By Craig R. Whitney New York Times Service

BONN — To enliven the opera house in this sleepy town-to-be-ex-capital on the Rhine, the city fathers decided to take the risk of hiring someone who would bring creative disorder to the job. So far, Giancarlo del Monaco has delivered in spades.

Since taking on the \$250,000-a-year job of general director of the Bonn Opera in August, del Monaco, 49, has overspent his budget by \$2.4 million, received a formal reprimand from the city council, been placed under investigation by the local district attorney for possible breach of trust, and staged two provocative new productions — Weber's "Freischütz" and Verdi's "Otello."

In the first performance here of the Verdi, the soprano Larisa Shevchenko took a heavy fall, as del Monaco's stage directions for Desdemona ordered, and broke her wrist in six places. She bravely got through the last act anyway, earning heavy applause, but then had to go to a hospital.

Del Monaco, a fiery and outspoken character who goes positive without his English bulldog, Sir John, said she had been magnificent; about himself, he doesn't seem to be worried, or to have any regrets about taking the job.

"My contract runs until 2000," he said in his office in the renovated Bonn opera house the other day, dismissing German bureaucratic perfectionism and the provincialism of city politics with a wave of his Havana cigar. "But the Germans were nicer when they were smaller."

Baron Hans-Joachim von Uslar-Gleichen, the city administrator who brought del Monaco here from Kassel, where an equally stormy tenure was cut short after two years, also said he had no second thoughts.

"We wanted somebody who would take artistic risks, and he is of course hard to handle," the baron said. "I always knew there'd be a problem with money, because he isn't a natural manager. He engaged more talent than he had money for, and now he'll just have to pay back the money from his budget, about a million marks [\$600,000] a year over the next four years."

It isn't clear to anyone, least of all del Monaco, just how he can squeeze a total of \$2.5 million from his budget and still carry out obligations he has already made to stars like Plácido Domingo and René Kollo. Kollo appeared in the "Freischütz"

premiere and will also be in "Pagliacci" this spring.

Though del Monaco's late father, Mario, was a famous Otello, the son is well known here for his avant-garde reinterpretations of the classic. In this production, he has transplanted a replica of the dome of Saint Mark's Cathedral from Venice to Cyprus, where it lies in ruins after apparently having been bombarded by the Turks.

Del Monaco said his choice of "Otello" to reopen Bonn's opera house last month, after renovation and expansion were completed, was a response to attacks on foreign workers and refugees by rightists extremists.

"I had racism and intolerance in mind," he explained. In this staging of the opera, the Moor, sickened by what the scheming Iago and other Europeans have done to him, appears in African costume in the last act. Del Monaco would like the audience to believe that after Otello stabs himself he stumbles off in the direction of his native land to die.

There were a few boos at the end of the "Otello" premiere from a Bonn audience that likes more traditional stagings, but del Monaco took them in good humor. He recalled a conversation with Götz Friedrich, the well-known producer at the Komische Oper in Berlin, who told him, "Giancarlo, if you aren't booed, ask yourself what you're doing wrong."

Curiosity about the "Freischütz" production centered on the set by Werner Tübke, who is best known for a vast socialist-realist panorama of a 16th-century farmers' uprising that was commissioned by the Communist East German regime.

Tübke and his assistants worked for two years on the scenery, and the painter and his work got the only enthusiastic ovation at the premiere, while both Kollo and Dennis Russell Davies, who conducted, got boos.

Bonn is fighting hard against the political decision, made in 1991, to make Bonn the capital of the united Germany, though the government appears unlikely to move much before the end of the century. The budget for the Bonn Opera alone is \$22 million a year, much of it provided by the federal government. Bonn's cultural subsidies seem certain to be reduced when the government moves to Berlin.

Der Spiegel, the national weekly news magazine, recently allowed itself to doubt whether Bonn's ambitions for its opera



Giancarlo del Monaco in front of a set for his production of "Der Freischütz."

were realistic and whether del Monaco had the financial or political finesse to make them come true.

Bonn's orchestra, as well, has an ambitious artistic director in Davies, who also conducts the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the American Composers Orchestra in New York City. Here in Beethoven's birthplace, Davies gives Bonn audiences at the Beethovenhalle regular doses of avant-garde music. He too, was criticized by the city council for overspending on this year's Beethoven Festival budget by more than \$200,000.

But both del Monaco and Davies continue to have full backing from the city authorities for everything they want to do,

which includes commissions for a series of short operas to be produced in the museum of modern art that opened in Bonn last summer.

The intrigues continue, as if there were a real-life Iago somewhere in the bowels of the opera house. A letter purportedly signed by del Monaco's principal deputy, Reinhard Benth, suggesting that Benth would be glad to take over if the city authorities fired of his boss, recently surfaced in the newspapers.

Benth, who seemed on excellent terms with the director in his office a few days earlier, denied having written it and threatened legal action against whoever did.

PEOPLE

British TV Backs Off Nude Sketches of Diana

Drawings depicting Princess Diana in a state of undress will be dropped from a TV program after two of the pictures were published on the front of the Sun newspaper. One sketch is of Diana wearing only her tights, a Union Jack G-string and a pair of royal crests on her breasts. "Outrageous," the caption read. Channel 4 said the pictures would not be used in the "World Without Walls" program, but a picture showing the princess in sexy underwear would be. The channel decided that the other pictures were "inappropriate and unnecessary to get over the message of the program": that Diana has changed from fairy-tale princess to smoking sex symbol. . . . The Tatler society magazine is offering odds on possible suitors for Princess Diana, should she and Prince Charles eventually divorce. Joint favorites in the remarriage stakes at 4-9 are John F. Kennedy Jr. and Prince Pierre d'Armenberg, whose ancestors are descended from the Belgian royal family.

V.S. National has won the David Cohen British Literature Prize, a new award of £30,000 (\$43,000), "in recognition of a lifetime's achievement." Natsipal, who was knighted in 1990, won the Booker Prize in 1971 for "In a Free State." The biennial prize, Britain's biggest literary award in money terms, is sponsored by the Arts Council.

Pat Nixon spent her 81st birthday at home in New Jersey, with family, but the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, California, celebrated in a big way. In addition to free admission on Tuesday, the library offered the first 200 visitors a piece of birthday cake. The first 50 visitors got a copy of "Pat Nixon: The Untold Story."

President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea dined with the actor Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Ben Robbins and a few friends at a pricey Washington restaurant. Hillary Rodham Clinton, in Iowa to take part in a health-care forum, missed out on the dinner at Galileo.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED Appears on Pages 6, 8, 17

WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for Europe, including cities like Algiers, Amsterdam, Athens, and London. Columns include High, Low, High, Low, High, Low, High, Low.

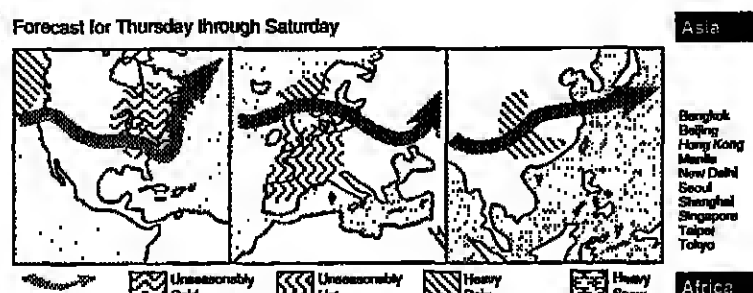


Table with weather forecasts for North America, including cities like Albuquerque, Anchorage, Atlanta, and Boston. Columns include High, Low, High, Low, High, Low, High, Low.

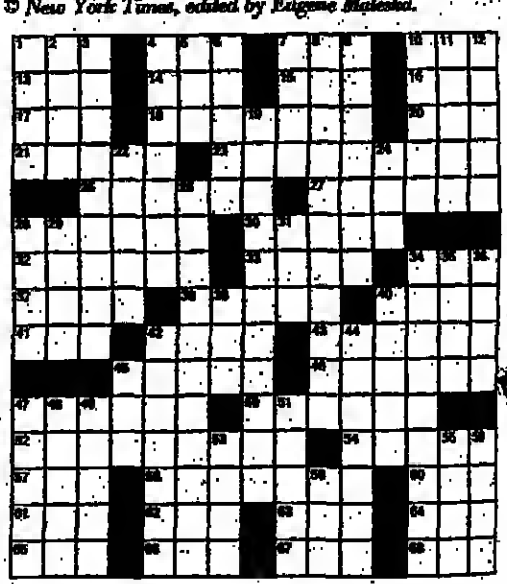
Table with weather forecasts for Asia, including cities like Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. Columns include High, Low, High, Low, High, Low, High, Low.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Do a slalom 4 Fish spear 7 Part of R.S.V.P. 10 Recipe amt. 13 Anderson's 18 Before, to Poe 19 Willis O'Brien's Kong, a.g. 17 Helman winner Kelley, e.g. 18 Off egg stone 20 Across McClanahan

21 Kashmir fleece 22 Cork instrument 25 Mem. Comb. form 27 Thefts 28 "Darby's" Rangers' star 30 Buffalo puckster 32 S.A. rodent 33 N.Y. and Bos. 34 "bin bin" Berliner 37 Hardy character 38 Form of Soviet wrestling

2 Soda nut 3 Abie's colleen? 4 Washer or eyelid 5 Mythical prince 6 "A... Galico, 1946 song 7 Egyptian king 8 Serry Fitzgerald had one 9 Lascivious men 10 O'Hara home and Erin village 11 Hose's gush 12 Chick sounds 13 Some seaweeds 14 Beethoven's Wagner 15 Hafler 16 O'Casey studied it 17 Sullivan 18 Stadium take 19 "Rock of..." 20 "... a trip to the old..." 21 Parry 22 Singers-Laine 23 Turk Murphy blew one 24 Olnad 25 Priest's vestment



BOOKS

A FIERCE GREEN FIRE: The American Environmental Movement. By Philip Shabecoff. 352 pages. \$25. Hill and Wang. ECO-SCAM: The False Prophets of Ecological Doom. By Ronald Bailey. 228 pages. \$19.95. St. Martin's Press. Reviewed by Bill Gifford

ENVIRONMENTALISM is at once the most ubiquitous and ungraspable of all isms. Under its rubric arise some of the most potent, divisive issues in American politics since the Civil War. Like the Civil War, environmental conflicts boil down to economic ones.

Yet often both sides proclaim themselves "environmentalists." As I am sure the authors of these two very different books would. Far from being a single, coherent ideology, environmentalism is a "box" into which an astonishingly broad range of political thought can fit, writes Philip Shabecoff in his history of the American environmental movement. While today that movement is dominated by liberals, such founding figures as Aldo Leopold and John Muir were conservatives in a classical sense: They sought to conserve resources, and opposed government-funded infrastructure such as dams.

Next to his tepid stuff, Ronald Bailey's slashing attack on apocalyptic environmentalists clearly establishes him as the preferable drinking companion. Armed only with a withering skepticism and the work of a few skeptical scientists, Bailey tears into a half-dozen faddish theories of ecological doom, from the Ice Age fears of two decades ago to today's angst over global warming. Bailey neatly skewers global-warming gadfly Stephen Schneider upon his own past as a proponent of "global cooling."

His prime target is Paul Ehrlich, author of "The Population Bomb" and perennial proclaimer that the end is nigh, whom he places (along with Ehrlich's fellow "doomsters") squarely in Richard Hofstadter's paranoid tradition of American politics. But Bailey belongs there as well. For, like a man who is colorblind, he sees a new Red menace in everything green. He rather indiscriminately labels moderate greens like Al Gore and the Environmental Defense Fund as shock troops for eco-communism. And he all but ignores environmentalism's successes in cleaning up our rivers and air and in protecting our species — just as Shabecoff skims over its failures.

Nevertheless, Bailey sets out on the warpath against them, seeking to show "why the world hasn't ended yet." Yet? One gets the feeling he won't back down even when it does.

Bill Gifford, an associate editor of Washington's City Paper who has covered environmental issues for Outside and Rolling Stone magazines, wrote this for The Washington Post.

BEST SELLERS

Table listing best-selling books with titles, authors, and weeks on the list. Includes titles like 'Close Combat', 'The Bridges of Madison County', and 'The Talismans of Shambhala'.

Advertisement for AT&T USA Direct Service. Features a large image of a globe and the text: 'Speed up the approval process. AT&T USA Direct Service. Your Express Connection to AT&T Service. Just dial the access number of the country you're in. For additional access numbers, call collect: 412-553-7458, Ext. 606.' Includes a table of international access numbers for various countries.